



Message from the chairman

Greater Wellington is committed to working co-operatively and collaboratively with our partners. We realise that this Annual Plan can only be delivered if we work closely with other councils, central government agencies, private-sector businesses and communities.

This Annual Plan contains a wide range of services. Three areas particularly require your attention.



Public transport network

The community has been giving us a clear message – improve the Metlink public transport network. So that's what we are doing, with significant support from the Government and other key players like ONTRACK and service operators. The new emphasis is on delivery – build it, buy it, fix it – to provide real improvements for users. It's fantastic to see the first improvements to the rail service with new carriages and platforms on the Wairarapa line.

This Annual Plan provides the resources to continue the roll-out of improvements. We've brought forward double tracking and electrification on the Paraparaumu line and work on the Johnsonville tunnels to enable our new trains to operate on this line.

Additional rolling stock is to be brought into service to relieve short term capacity issues, the park and ride network is being expanded, and we expect new trolley buses in service from early 2008. In addition we will soon be signing a contract for the supply of new electric trains to go into service in 2010.

The regional transport rate has been increased by 12% to help fund these improvements. However, the benefits are immense – improved accessibility, economic growth, sustainability and a reduction of our impacts on climate change.

Thank you for your views and comments on our work.
Your input will help us to deliver services that better meet your needs.



Rural and urban flood protection

Greater Wellington Regional Council is committed to investigating a long-term approach to integrating our land and river programmes. We want to work closely with the community to improve the quality of our river catchments.

Last year we were told that flood protection work was a priority for Hutt Valley and Wairarapa residents. Consequently, we brought forward planned flood protection work in these areas – which means that the costs have been brought forward too. This year we will be working hard to deliver the new programmes. Details of our flood protection work are contained in this Annual Plan.

Wellington Regional Strategy

Greater Wellington, at the request of the city and district councils in the region, has agreed to adopt a new rate to fund a regional economic development agency (EDA). This agency will implement the Wellington Regional Strategy developed over the past three years by the region's councils, central government, businesses and community groups.

Sustainable economic development is pivotal to the success of the Wellington region. Greater Wellington believes that the strategy produced is realistic, pragmatic and a sound way for all councils, central government agencies, academic institutions and private sector businesses in the region to move forward in partnership.

Establishing a new regional EDA will require an increase in Greater Wellington Regional Council rates of \$4.5 million (incl GST). Offsetting this, up to \$3.9 million currently collected by city and district councils in the region for economic development purposes will be deducted from rates. Greater Wellington's agreement to fund the regional EDA is contingent on that rate reduction. The net increase in rates funding for this activity in the region will therefore be \$600,000.

We are very pleased with the community's support for this Annual Plan and are looking forward to delivering the work programmes.

Ian Buchanan
Chairman

