

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:  
WCC Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP): 2009-2019**

**Submission from Mt Cook Mobilised**

## **Introduction**

Mt Cook Mobilised represents the interests of the residents of the suburb of Mt Cook in Wellington. Mt Cook Mobilised has an increasing interaction with the Wellington City Council on issues affecting people living in Mt Cook and the character of the community. The suburb of Mt Cook is a short walking distance from Cuba St and Downtown Wellington – it has a mixture of old heritage/character housing, and high density apartment dwellings, as well as “social” housing, with both Housing NZ and the Council providing high-density accommodation in our suburb. The population of Mt Cook is very diverse, multi-ethnic, and ranges from established residents of 20+ years, to new migrants and a transient student population; from seniors to a growing number of couples with young families. Mt Cook is also a major commuter route. It is bordered by high traffic roads and Wallace Street runs through the middle of the suburb into Taranaki Street. This is juxtaposed alongside pedestrian walkways which help promote walking as Mt Cook’s first choice in transport.

### **Vision for now and into the future:**

Mt Cook will be a community and suburb that has a high quality of life for its residents, as well as for the many Wellingtonians who commute daily through the suburb. Our submission states what the City Council can do to help us achieve that goal.

### **Focus of LTCCP consultation:**

We consider that the way the consultation is focusing on the level of the rates increase for 2009/10 is not appropriate. The consultation should focus on the city’s balance of priorities for the next three and ten year periods, not on how to achieve a rates increase of 4% or some other figure next year.

## **Recommendations**

### **Environment**

- Streets devoid of rubbish
  - More rubbish bins installed on the streets of Mt Cook to cater for the many visitors to our suburb (notably students)
  - All rubbish picked up by Rubbish Men (including bottles left out in their cartons but not in recycling bins. These bottles end up being smashed and left lying on the footpaths if not taken away on rubbish collection day)
- Cut-back on water consumption
  - Find and fix leakages, our city has too much water loss from leakages

- Encourage homeowners to install grey water systems to avoid using potable water for flushing toilets, washing cars or watering gardens. Introduce subsidies for homeowners who want to convert to grey water systems
- Harvesting rain water – encourage residents to install tanks and harvest rain water for watering gardens and other uses
- Run an education programme to ask citizens to reduce water consumption
- Metering – our group could not reach a consensus; one concern was the cost of implementing and maintaining meters.
- Planting
  - Cut-back on lawnmowing by planting some of the grassed areas
  - More greening and beautification in Mt Cook (we need trees, particularly - linking the Town Belt with the City and Mt Victoria, and the Waterfront to Newtown)
  - Plant fruit trees on the Papawai Reserve picnic area
- Recycling
  - We strongly support the current recycling programme (using the green bins)
  - We support education to help the city reduce waste

### **Social and recreational**

- We would like a community hub for Mt Cook (N.B. Mt Cook has no playground for under 5s, no community centre, no library or shopping centre). The YMCA and Tasman St pool (TSW) were a focal point for the community to meet and share news, but these facilities were pulled down over a year ago. Mt Cook is now devoid of a community hub, making it hard for the many groups within the community to socialise informally, and reinforcing the sense of Mt Cook being a drive-through to Newtown, not a community in its own right.
- We would like WCC to pay for a part-time community coordinator for Mt Cook
- We would like the Central Library to be open at least one night each week ( i.e. we are aware that this would imply a reduction in current service levels)
- We support the work of volunteers in our city and would like the Council to continue to encourage volunteers
  - The *Branch Out* magazine is a very important vehicle for supporting volunteers in our parks and reserves, we believe this magazine should be retained.
- We would like a closer relationship with Massey University

### **Transport**

- We would like Mt Cook to be included in the Safer Roads Programme
  - We have many arterial roads carrying heavy volumes, which are overdue for a review by transport planners – in particular we would like to see active consideration given to ways to deflect traffic *around* Mt Cook, rather than through our suburb.
  - We have concerns about the speeds on our roads
  - We support slowing traffic in Wallace St – 40km/hr would be good, and might make it less attractive as a through-route

- Bidwill St carries a very high volume of traffic. We would like to see the steep and narrow top half of this road made one-way. We also note that there is currently an unsafe section opposite 39 Bidwill Street that is subsiding, which presents a risk for the coming winter/ rainy season.
- We support walking and cycling in Mt Cook, by locals and those in nearby suburbs (e.g. Newtown) who choose to walk to the city.
- Walking and cycling are both important; one must not be promoted to the detriment of the other
- We would like a Community Street Review of Mt Cook – there are many areas where wheeled vehicles cannot go (i.e. buggies, motorized scooters), due to a lack of footpaths, curb crossings, or steps with no ramp alternative
- We support bus lanes and any other inducement to use public transport
- We would like more buses to be routed up Wallace St, e.g. some of the number 3 buses (Lyll Bay) could go via Taranaki St and some remain via Kent Tce
- We support walkways that are wide, green, well lit and pleasant to use
- We would like more pedestrian routes east-west across Mt Cook to enhance Mt Cook's walkability
- We would like a programme of active policing at the key pedestrian intersections en route to Mt Cook School, there are too many red-light runners at Tory/Buckle and Buckle/Taranaki Sts and parents are not allowing their children to walk to school while red-light running is the norm at these intersections
- We consider the proposed Indoor Stadium should not go ahead in Kilbirnie. Public transport to that area is not adequate, and increased traffic flows when events are on will gridlock already over-used roads in Mt Cook and Newtown.

### **Cultural well-being**

- We would like a heritage programme for Mt Cook, perhaps along the lines of Jackson St in Petone where businesses were able to apply for grants to achieve a Jackson St "look", e.g. using similar colours in their refurbishments. This programme revitalized Jackson St.

### **Governance**

- We would like rates increases kept to a minimum
- We believe there is a small amount of tolerance to increase some user charges
- We support a council review of spending

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**Our address:** Mt Cook Mobilised  
PO Box 9724  
Wellington 6141

**Email:** Mtcookmobilised@gmail.com