

# MT COOK! MOBILISED

MT COOK MOBILISED  
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This submission has been prepared on behalf of Mt Cook Mobilised, a group which represents residents of Mt Cook. Mt Cook Mobilised formed in 2007, and is affiliated to the Newtown Residents Association (incorporated in 1963).

Mt Cook is a diverse suburb located between Te Aro and Newtown. Mt Cook is home to Massey University's Wellington Campus, Wellington High School, and borders the Basin Reserve. Mt Cook School is the local primary, and the suburb has connections to the schools that surround the Basin. The Wellington Regional Hospital and Te Whaea - the New Zealand Dance School and Toi Whakaari - at the northern end of Newtown are readily accessed from Mt Cook. In 2015 Pukeahu National War Memorial Park opened on Buckle Street, Mt Cook. The population of Mt Cook includes a strong social housing presence and numerous students. In the last ten years apartment blocks have become more prominent in Mt Cook. Much of the housing stock is wooden houses, including pre-1900 and early twentieth century styles – this is not surprisingly as Mt Cook is one of the city's oldest suburbs. The residents of Mt Cook are proud to be well represented amongst the city's walking and cycling commuters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wellington City Council's Draft 10 Year Plan – Tō Mātou Mahere Ngahuru Tau.

## **RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT – Te Manahau me te taiao**

### **Predator Free Wellington**

We support the additional funding for community trapping.

### **Resilience Infrastructure – Major Roadworks Projects (Wellington Water)**

By the end of 2018, and for at least the next 4 years, Mt Cook will be hit by major construction and roadworks. The area around Wallace Street, Hargreaves Street and Rolleston Street will be most impacted. The works are the new reservoir pipeline (12 – 15 months), the Housing New Zealand redevelopment of its site between Hargreaves Street and Rolleston Street (which will demolish and re-build what is currently 54 units on a large site), and the 35,000m<sup>3</sup> new Prince of Wales Omāroro Reservoir. A replacement Bell Road reservoir will also be constructed during this time, which will impact on Brooklyn Road, Bell Road and the top of Bidwill Street.

These are all major projects. Wallace Street is already very congested much of the time and will be single-lane in parts as the reservoir pipeline is laid.

During the reservoir construction some provision has been made for replacement temporary car parking for Rolleston Street residents.

During the pipeline work, Wallace Street and Hargreaves Street will lose 8 – 10 car parks as the pipeline work is completed in 50m sections over 12 – 15 months.

Given the level of upheaval and inconvenience that will be experienced by the Mt Cook community, we would like to request that the Wallace Street Pipeline team negotiate 10 additional temporary car parks that can be utilised during this work, as each section of the road is impacted. A suggestion was made at the public meeting that the designation of the upper Prince of Wales field be brought forward to allow for some temporary parking there. Other options were suggested.

Mt Cook Mobilised is happy to work with the Project Community Liaison person to make this work, once the temporary car parking has been identified. The provision of temporary car parks will be appreciated and will, in part, relieve the stress which we anticipate residents will suffer over this prolonged period.

## **HOUSING – Ngā Kāinga**

### **Affordable Housing**

We are not in favour of losing any of the social housing estate. If special conditions are required to enable the “affordable” housing component to be satisfied, they must include a mechanism that allows the land to be retained. In the past we have seen the way that state houses were sold to tenants, then quickly made their way onto the open market to be on sold at market prices.

We are aware that siting social housing close to the city is advantageous to tenants, and saves on transport costs. The land that the city already owns that is designated for social housing close to the city is some of the most valuable real estate in the city. If this land leaves the social housing estate there will never be an opportunity for the city to buy it back. In the future, this land will be even more vital for social housing, it makes sense to keep it in Council ownership.

### **Built Heritage Fund**

We would like to see the Built Heritage Fund maintained at its current level. Our heritage housing stock contributes to the city’s charm and visitor appeal. The cost of earthquake strengthening puts a high toll on building owners. We would like to see this fund kept at its current level to assist heritage building owners to protect our heritage.

## **TRANSPORT – Ngā Waka Haere**

### **Arterial Routes**

Bidwill Street is a steep residential street that has become the short-cut from western to eastern suburbs, to the Wellington Regional Hospital and the airport. Bidwill Street is both steep and narrow, resulting in considerable congestion where it reduces to a single lane.

We would like to see a redesign of the Webb Street / Victoria Street / Willis Street intersections to encourage traffic off Bidwill Street. The current ‘alternative’ route involves eight sets of traffic lights, with vehicles sent on a one-way tiki tour into Te Aro before they can turn east and south again to head to their destinations. Another alternative would be to make Bidwill Street one-way.

Wright Street is fast becoming a cut-through to head off traffic on Wallace Street. It is a residential street, not a short-cut route.

Tasman Street is becoming another well-used short-cut to the south. Tasman Street was a very quiet street with heritage housing stock.

### **SUSTAINABLE GROWTH – Te Kauneke Tauwhiro**

#### **District Plan Review & Streamlined Consenting**

We support the proposed review of the District Plan, but not to the exclusion of green spaces within residential areas. Access to green space has multiple health benefits for people and pets.

We are in favour of continued protection of heritage areas, as exist in Mt Cook, Mt Victoria, Newtown and Thorndon. These areas add to the character of our neighbourhoods.

We support streamlining the consenting process, with affected neighbours continuing to be included in the consenting process.

### **ARTS AND CULTURE – Ngā Toi me te Ahurea**

#### **The Great War Exhibition**

The Great War Exhibition in the Dominion Museum building is an adjunct to Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. It adds to the visitor experience. We would like Council to consider enabling this museum experience to continue as it adds to the poignancy of a visit to Pukeahu with its memorial sculptures. We prefer to support this existing attraction over the proposed new Movie Museum.

Regarding the Dominion Museum building in general, it was never designed or suited for being a University building. Mt Cook Mobilised would like to suggest that Wellington City Council consider contributing to funding along with Government toward the repurchase of the Dominion Museum for the purpose of exhibiting more of Te Papa's collections.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 10 Year Plan. We would be pleased to speak to this submission.

Peter Cooke  
Mt Cook Mobilised Spokesperson