

Thank you Chair, Councillor Matthews
Morena Mayor, Councillors and Po Iwi
Ko Rodney Barber toku ingoa

I am speaking as the Leader of the Newlands Resilience Group .

My motivation is to best represent the residents of my suburb and be part of the solution by providing local intelligence to inform decisions. I care deeply about the residents in Newlands, especially those who are economically, socially, and/or culturally vulnerable.

On Monday this week we submitted our business case to Wellington City Council, the Coalition Government, the Treasury, Internal Affairs, the Auditor General, WREMO, NEMA and Weave. Our business case sets out the evidence and rationale to improve community and disaster resilience in Newlands by 2030, to address the vulnerabilities in our suburb. We have support from 26 local leaders, Ngā Hau e Whā o Paparāangi, and levels of support from five wellington wide networks. If there is adequate interest from investors, we intend to make an "initiate" decision late March to undertake the detailed design and planning, including the design of the good faith governance based on love and relationship for mutual benefit. If investors commit funding by 30 June, we intend to make an 'implement' decision to implement by late 2025. In sending our business case we requested insight as to how best we can secure investment interest before we progress the detailed design and planning in April. Our business case is on our Newlands Resilience Group website.

Wellington City Council responded on Tuesday advising preliminary decisions will be made today and that we should submit our business case during the LTP consultation period mid-April to late May. We will do this.

I have skimmed the document to be considered today and would like to provide 4 items of feedback from our and my perspective:

1. I attended the Northern Ward public workshop in May 2023 and shared our pervading vulnerabilities, based on annual community surveys, since 2019. These don't seem to be reflected in Council's thinking.
2. I see in September last you you approved the outcome statements; priorities; and strategic approaches. It is difficult to see the themes and logic threads that weave these outcomes together that may allow us to line up our business case with Council's outcomes, priorities, and strategic approaches.
3. One dependency in our business case is the "economic performance of Wellington in providing paid work opportunities for residents." I encourage the Council to consider a broader range of economic development options by considering not only primary, secondary, and tertiary but also quaternary and quinary for adding value nationally and internationally.
4. In the same way the Council is dependent on Central Government. I encourage the Council to focus on public value. In my view and experience the more an investor sees the public value of the investment the more they are likely to invest and potentially borrow short term to see an increase in economic performance, to return to the relevant debt to GDP ratio. For example, our preferred option in our business case suggests that for every \$1 invested there is \$4 of social and cultural benefits. Those benefits represent less demand in Newlands for taxpayer and ratepayer funded services and improved wellbeing.

My thoughts are with you over the next 6 months as you make decisions that affect Wellington and Wellingtonians.

I hope our thoughts are helpful and you consider our business case.

Kia kaha.

Nga Mihi