

Date 27 April 2021

Adam Irish
Email: fyi-request-14891-3e2b3532@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia Ora Adam

Infrastructure and subdivision development for housing

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 9 March 2021. You requested the following information:

- 1. What number of new subdivisions have been granted resource consent in the Wellington City region each year over 6 years.**
- 2. What are the numbers of new subdivisions planned or in the consenting process for the next 5 years.**
- 3. What level of spending has gone into new subdivision infrastructure by the council each year over the last 6 years. What level is planned for the next 5 years.**
- 4. Has the council formed any strategies to help the building and development for housing for first home buyers in the wellington region and in particular Wellington City. If so what are these plans.**

Below are the documents that fall in scope of your request and my decision to release the document.

Item	Document name/description	Decision
1	Subdivisions consents since 2015	Released in full

The response to each of your questions are outlined below.

- 1. What number of new subdivisions have been granted resource consent in the Wellington City region each year over 6 years?**

This information can be found in Item 1. This is a list of all subdivision consents issued from 2015 to the end of February 2021.

- 2. What are the numbers of new subdivisions planned or in the consenting process for the next 5 years?**

The Council has no way of knowing how many subdivisions are planned in the future. Council is notified of a plan to subdivide only when a consent is applied for. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act that the information does not exist.

- 3. What level of spending has gone into new subdivision infrastructure by the Council each year over the last 6 years? What level is planned for the next 5 years?**

The Council Transport team do not spend money for roading in new sub-divisions. It is the responsibility of the developers to build new roads and vest to WCC. The Transport consents team ensure the vested roads are up to Council standards to avoid high maintenance costs.

4. Has the council formed any strategies to help the building and development for housing for first home buyers in the Wellington region and in particular Wellington City? If so, what are these plans?

The Council adopted the Wellington Housing Strategy in June 2018. The Strategy guides Council decisions that relate to housing across the housing continuum i.e. from emergency and social housing through to private rental and ownership. Council has a role to play at all ends of this continuum and this is reflected in the Strategy.

The Strategy is put into effect by an Action Plan. The current Housing Action Plan 2020-22 (the Plan) was adopted in March 2020. A summary of what the Plan includes, with specific attention to the question regarding housing development is provided below. For more on the Housing Strategy and Action Plan head to Council's website <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/policies/housing-strategy>

The Action Plan includes:

Planning for Growth – This programme will shape the way we live, for decades. It encompasses the Spatial Plan which is a 'blueprint' for our city that sets out where and how we should grow and develop over the next 30 years. The final Spatial Plan is expected to be adopted later this year and provides the direction for the review of the District Plan, the 'rulebook' for land development.

The Planning for Growth work will make more land available for housing development at greater densities. Enabling more supply of housing is a key driver for this programme of work and for meeting our Housing Strategy vision of 'all Wellingtonians well-housed'.

In addition, Wellington City Council has been involved with and endorsed the Wellington Regional Growth Framework. Consultation on this regional spatial plan is running now until the 10th of May, you can find more here <https://wrgf.co.nz/have-your-say/>

One-stop-shop consenting improvements – a series of improvements to our consenting process is underway. This programme supports growth in supply of houses in the private market by improving the ease and efficiency of the consenting processes.

Proactive Development – this programme focuses on being prepared and open to maximising opportunities with partners for greater provision of housing supply. It includes the Te Kāinga affordable rental programme, redevelopments of City Housing sites – some of these sites may be used for mixed-use development i.e. provision of housing for a mix of social, affordable, and private market housing. We continue to be open to working with partners and exploring how we can do more to provide affordable housing outcomes for the city.

Homelessness action plan and City Housing – these two priorities set out how Council supports those who are unable to access housing through the private market.

Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any question please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Jessica Hall
Assurance Advisor