

Letter from Mayor Tory Whanau and Councillors

From Tiimalu MG Sialava'a <Tiimalu.Sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz>

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To James.Shaw@parliament.govt.nz <James.Shaw@parliament.govt.nz>; Marama.Davidson@parliament.govt.nz <Marama.Davidson@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>

 1 attachment (220 KB)

James Shaw & Marama Davidson 20092023 letter.pdf;

Tēnā koe

Please see attached letter from Mayor Tory Whanau and Councillors.

Ngā mihi

Tiimalu

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Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

20 September 2023

Ministers James Shaw and Marama Davidson
Green Party Co-Leaders
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe James and Marama

RE: Collaboration between Wellington City Council and the incoming 54th Government

As we draw closer to the 2023 General Election, I wanted to outline my hopes for collaboration and realising opportunities between the 54th Government and Wellington City Council.

Wellingtonians understand what is needed to address the dual crises of inequality and climate change here in Pōneke, and have ambitions of a climate friendly, safe, and affordable city that is enjoyable to live, work and play in.

Wellington City Council has made significant strides in recent years to address these challenges and invest in our future. We are reducing our carbon emissions and waste, have started earthquake strengthening our buildings and transforming our transport system to cope with a growing population.

We are clear eyed about the scale of change needed to address the wicked problems we all face. Ultimately, we believe these challenges can be solved, but will require more meaningful collaboration between Central and Local Government to achieve.

Here in Wellington, like many local governments, we do not have all the tools we need to deal with the challenges ahead of us. An inadequate share of tax revenue between Local and Central Government, that spans decades, means that even with other revenue measures in place (i.e., fees and charges, investment interest and dividends and borrowing), we are unable to truly meet the scale of change required, for our city to reach its true potential.

In the next term, if elected, I would appreciate confirmation that broadening the revenue raising scope for Wellington City Council will be explored, this for example could be through GST revenue share, as advocated for by LGNZ, or through access to congestion charging revenue.

Beyond the burgeoning issue of limited revenue-raising scope for Wellington City Council, other issues that will need collaboration with the next government to tackle, include:

- Reviewing the standards for earthquake prone buildings including the timeframes for strengthening works and the cost of strengthening residential apartment buildings, and co-funding for earthquake strengthening Wellington City Council buildings that provide vital infrastructure to our national arts programme.

- Investment for climate change adaptation, particularly for our coastal communities and flood prone areas, as well as city-wide resilience.
- Reform of water infrastructure and services to better fund the necessary upgrades without overburdening current ratepayers.
- Investment in Wellington and the region as a world class place for science and innovation, including funding the 'Science City'.
- Investment in Wellington and the region as the creative capital of New Zealand, to support major events and our local arts community.
- Continued investment in new public housing in Wellington to provide warm, safe and affordable housing for Wellingtonians, including expanding the Government's income related rented subsidy to all Te Toi Mahana tenants, and additional wrap around support for the homeless community.
- Increased investment in quality public transport to make it more accessible and fit to meet the needs of a growing population, so that we can enable good urban development in the city along rapid transit spines.

Pōneke is a city with endless potential, brimming with talent, creativity and innovation.

Support, collaboration and co-investment from Government must properly reflect the significant contribution we make to Aotearoa as the nation's Capital. To truly realise Wellington as a world-class city where our people and natural environment thrive, we must fix our ability to revenue raise, and collaborate meaningfully to ensure that the big issues we face as a city, and a country, can be addressed.

Ngā mihi



Tory Whanau, Mayor of Wellington

Deputy Mayor Foon, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Matthews, Councillor Paul, Councillor Free, Council McNulty, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Wi Neera, Councillor Abdurahman, Councillor Apanowicz and Mana Whenua representatives Liz Kelly and Holden Hohaia.

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