

PARKING ACCESS TO THE BOTANIC GARDEN UNDER REVIEW

Representatives from the Thorndon Residents' Association (TRA) recently met with the Mayor and Wellington City Council staff on Glenmore Street to discuss a long-standing concern: the lack of visitor parking outside the Wellington Botanic Garden.

Currently, parking is prohibited at all times beside the Garden along Glenmore Street and at the southern end of Tinakori Road. The restrictions were introduced as part of the installation of the dedicated cycle lane.

The TRA, local businesses, residents, and the Friends of the Botanic Garden raised concerns that visitor numbers have declined significantly since the parking was removed. Community observations and traffic counts suggest that while the cycle lane is most heavily used during the afternoon commuter period between 4.00 pm and 6.30 pm, parking restrictions remain in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

For many visitors, finding alternative parking can be challenging. Those wishing to visit the Garden often need to park in Kelburn or on The Terrace, adding both inconvenience and additional costs. This can be particularly difficult for older visitors, people with limited mobility, families with young children, school groups, and tourists. The distance and terrain between available parking and the Garden can present a genuine barrier to access.

The TRA believed there was an opportunity to better balance the needs of cyclists and visitors through the introduction of a time-based clearway. Similar arrangements already operate successfully in other parts of Wellington. Under this approach, the cycle lane would remain clear during peak commute hours, while allowing car parking outside those times. A clearway operating from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm would preserve cycling priority when demand is highest while restoring access for Garden visitors during the rest of the day.

The timing of a review was particularly important given the planned reopening of the Begonia House in 2027. The Garden is expected to host flower displays, concerts, educational tours, and other activities throughout the year in partnership with Garden staff and the Friends of the Botanic Garden. Improved visitor parking would help support access to these events, as well as to the Picnic Café, Anderson Park, and one of Wellington's most valued

outdoor public attractions – the Botanic Garden.

The TRA noted that the original changes to parking and the introduction of the 24/7 cycle lane were implemented quickly and, in its view, without adequate consultation in 2023. Concerns raised at the time regarding visitor access, the diverse range of Garden users, and potential impacts on surrounding businesses were not fully addressed. The Association had sought discussions with Council design staff to explore alternative options, but these discussions did not proceed.

With several years of observations and measurable impacts now available since the cycle lane's introduction, the TRA believes the Council should reassess and plan an alternative solution to the parking issue for the Botanic Garden and surrounding businesses. The Association asked the Mayor and Ward Councillors for the Wellington City Council to undertake a review and consider changes that would improve access while continuing to support safe cycling infrastructure.

A letter was received from the Mayor in mid-September, which advised the TRA to make another submission for a formal review as part of the Council developing its Long Term Plan (LTP) in 2027.

A copy of the Mayor's letter is published on the Association's website.

MEET THE CANDIDATES Wellington North Electorate

The Thorndon Society and Thorndon Residents' Association invite you to a community forum with the candidates standing in the new Wellington North electorate.

Date: Wednesday 14 October 2026

Venue: WQ Hotel, 24 Hawkestone Street

Meet & Greet: 6:30 PM

Main Session: 7.00 PM – 8.30 PM

MC: Hon. Peter Dunne CNZM, FIML

An opportunity to hear directly from the candidates, and network afterwards.

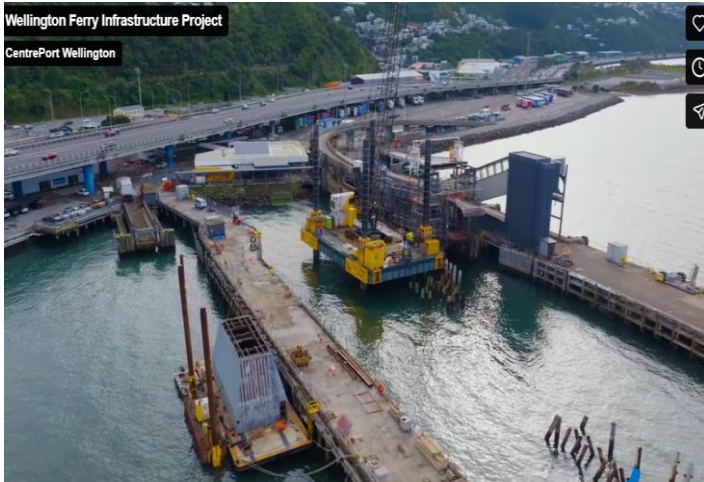
Map of the Wellington North electorate:

<https://vote.nz/maps/find-your-electorate-2026>

PILE DRIVING REVERBERATES ACROSS THORNDON AND PIPITEA

CentrePort has begun the project, with chosen construction partners, to deliver the marine infrastructure needed to support the next generation of Cook Strait rail ferries at Kaiwharawhara.

2026 will see completion of the site preparation, wildlife protection, staging wharves and a temporary terminal. Piling began in July. By 2028 the wharf will have been extended, redundant structures will have been removed and a walkway and linkspan will have been installed. 2029 sees the planned commissioning of the terminal and new ferries.



Pile driver, Kaiwharawhara

There are about 150 piles to be put in as part of this project, and they vary in length from about 25 meters to about 45 meters. A pile driver is used to drive steel casings into the seabed, after which the material inside is removed and the pile is filled with concrete. Pile driving creates significant steel-on-steel noise, but noise reduction measures are being implemented.

Current modelling indicates the project is expected to comply with permitted noise limits in regional and district plans. Piling is to occur during daytime only, with any future night work likely limited to setup activities rather than noisy piling operations.

Noise reduction methods include:

- A shroud (hush) around the pile, reducing noise by about 10 dB.
- A dolly fitted over the end of the pile to further reduce noise.
- Underwater noise is reduced using a bubble curtain, which surrounds the pile with rising bubbles that dampen sound in the water.



Landscaping and nest boxes, Kaiwharawhara

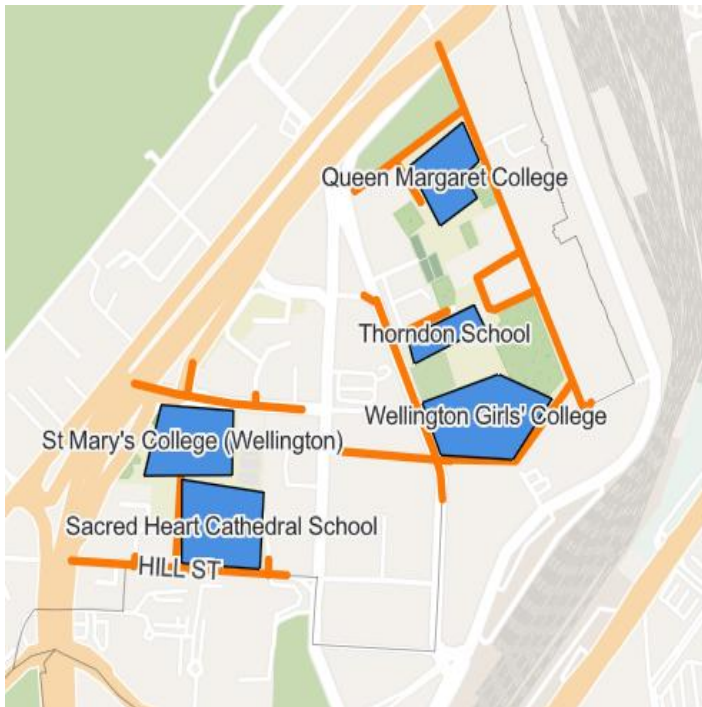
Wildlife protection is a major focus due to a significant penguin habitat in the project area. Nesting birds could slow the project because piling near nesting areas would need to stop during breeding seasons. Existing little blue penguin burrows for instance, beneath the Interislander terminal area, have been blocked off with netting to discourage nesting during construction. Approximately eight burrows have been closed, requiring alternative habitat to be provided. Around 30 nest boxes and new habitat areas are being established near the Kaiwharawhara estuary and surrounding locations. Habitat enhancement includes weed removal, planting, placing rocks for shelter, and installing nest boxes. Some nest boxes are already occupied by penguins. The project team hopes to maintain and expand these habitat improvements beyond the construction period if successful. After piling is complete, netting may be removed to allow penguins to return to their original habitat. Wildlife management is labour-intensive but was a necessary requirement to minimise project delays and environmental impacts.

Cultural values are also important, as the project is in an area of significance to Taranaki Whānui. Kaitiaki monitors are part of the project team, helping ensure environmental and cultural protections are properly implemented and continuously improved.

Water quality management focuses on:

- Preventing fuel and hydraulic fluid leaks.
- Careful refuelling procedures.
- Monitoring the condition of machinery and hydraulic hoses.
- Managing excavation and contaminated material near coastal areas.

VARIABLE SPEED LIMITS



New road signs have appeared around schools as part of a nationwide rollout of **Variable Speed Limits (VSLs)** mandated by the New Zealand Government under the **Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024**. These signs legally enforce a temporary drop in speed limits during peak drop-off and pick-up times to protect children travelling to and from school.

Some of the Signs are electronic

Flashing Activation: The electronic digital signs flash during high-traffic school periods (usually a 45 to 60-minute window at the start and end of the school day). Examples are in Hawkestone Street, Murphy Street and Hobson Street. When active, the speed limit drops to **30 kph** on local neighbourhood streets.

Zone Coverage: The lower speed limits are legally enforceable up to **150 metres** from the school gates.

Off-Peak Operations: When the signs are blank or turned off, motorists must follow the standard permanent speed limit for that road.

QUEENS PARK GARDENING

10am – 12 noon weather permitting. Volunteers meet at the top of the Park Street steps. Join us, and/or email Peter Steel at peter@steelfamily.nz. (M) 021 244 1850 to get email notifications. The next meeting dates are:

Sun 27 Sept

Sat 31 Oct

Sun 22 Nov



THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY (TGIF) CONCERTS

Every Friday, the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul hosts a concert. They begin at 12:45 in the Cathedral Nave. Entry by koha.

<https://www.wellingtoncathedral.org.nz/tgif>

Concerts dates for the rest of 2026.

October 2 Jennifer Chou (organ)
October 9 Romance of the Violin - Andrew Sords, violin with Cheryl Duvall, piano
October 16 Sackbuts and cornets
October 23 Jihyeon Lim (piano)
October 30 Weiran Chen (piano)
November 6 Caelum Zheng (piano)
November 13 Duo Clarino
November 20 Adam Whiskin (piano)
November 27 Anna Sedcole and Peter Maunder (soprano and guitar)
December 19 (7pm) Messiaen: La Nativité du Seigneur - Tom Chatterton and Michael Stewart (organ)

REPORTING CONCERNS IN THORNDON

Reporting infrastructure and service problems

Many of you will be familiar with the FIXit app. This is used to report something that is broken or a service issue such as a missed rubbish collection or graffiti, from your phone. You can report a problem using the online form if you prefer at <https://services.wellington.govt.nz/report/>. You can phone WCC on 04 499 4444 (this number is operated 24/7).

Urgent hazards which may pose a risk to life, noise control complaints or urgent parking complaints should be reported to the WCC.

For broken streetlights check the map at <https://wellington.govt.nz/report-a-problem/street-light-outages>

A red dot will tell you when the outage was reported, estimated fix date and any other information available. If no red dot appears on the map, please report the outage. Dark streets can be dangerous.

Water Issues

Report water leaks and outages, storm water issues, enquire about new water connections and billing enquiries to Tiaki Wai. For urgent issues call 0800 TIAKIWAI (0800 842 549) or report your issue to <https://www.tiakiwai.co.nz/about-us/contact/report-an-issue>

Joining the TRA helps support our community work
<https://www.thorndon.org.nz/join-us/>

Published quarterly by Thorndon Residents' Association
Proudly supported by Tommy's Real Estate
Email: contact@thorndon.org.nz with suggestions

RECENT THORNDON SALES BY TOMMY'S



7E/42 Molesworth St, Thorndon



7 Calgarry Avenue, Thorndon



7 Saint Mary Street, Thorndon



33 Grant Road, Thorndon



3 Lewisville Terrace, Thorndon



6/24 Patanga Crescent, Thorndon

Wellington Market Update - September 2026

Wellington's spring market is shaping up as a season of opportunity for both sellers and buyers. With school holidays, the election and Christmas compressing the remaining months, sellers considering a move are being encouraged to start planning early, attend to maintenance and secure the best window to launch. Stock levels remain lower than expected, creating strong potential for serious interest and competition around well-presented, move-in-ready homes.

For buyers, conditions feel less pressured, with more time to compare properties and work through due diligence at their own pace. Even so, the right home at the right price still attracts quick interest. Sun, location, low-maintenance living and easy access remain key priorities, alongside genuine local knowledge of neighbourhoods, schools, shops and transport. With good preparation on both sides, spring is presenting a well-timed opportunity for sellers and considered buyers alike.

Thank you for your positive feedback and support for me at Tommy's Real Estate. I've truly enjoyed helping those who have been in contact. Just a reminder—I'm more than happy to provide free market appraisals with absolutely no obligations, especially after the recent RV changes. If you're interested, feel free to give me a call on 021 969 808!

Barry O'Brien
The Peoples Agent

