



Basin Reserve Trust

Statement of Intent 2025-2026

Introduction

The Basin Reserve: *Our Village Green* – It is the Basin Reserve Trust and Wellington City Council’s vision that the Basin Reserve is highly valued as a public reserve of unique character and is recognised as the premier international cricket venue in New Zealand. The journey to this point has been years in the making, with the 1884 Trust Deed conveying the area to the Wellington City Council in Trust so that the Basin Reserve would be “*forever used for the purposes of a cricket and recreation ground by the inhabitants of the City of Wellington*”. In 1998, the Basin Reserve was listed as a Heritage Area, becoming the first sports ground to receive such a designation, and further enhancing its heritage and recreational significance to Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

Today, the Basin Reserve has seen more New Zealand Test matches and Test victories than any other ground. It has also been the venue for some of the most remarkable performances in our cricketing history; from JR Reid’s 15 sixes in a first-class innings, to Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones’ World Record partnership of 467 in 1991, and Brendon McCullum’s historic score of 302 in 2014. But the ground not only hosts cricket games, but sporting fixtures of every variety. It has hosted national events and competitions, including VE Day celebrations, Royal Tours, exhibitions, Scout jamborees, concerts, and festivals.

The Basin Reserve Trust (BRT) plays a role in contributing to the Wellington City Council's 2024-2034 long-term plan, and we understand our role in the vision for “*Poneke – the creative capital where people and nature thrive.*”

Objectives

The objectives of the trust are stated in the Trust Deed as agreed between the Wellington City Council and the BRT and are highlighted below:

1. To manage, administer, plan, develop, maintain, promote, and operate the Basin Reserve for recreation and leisure activities and for the playing of cricket for the benefit of the inhabitants of Wellington.
2. To establish a long-term policy for the further development of the Basin Reserve as a recreational facility and as a facility for the playing of cricket, other sports and as a venue for other community-based activities.
3. To enter into management agreements and other contracts that are necessary or desirable to achieve the objects of the Trust.
4. To promote and coordinate the raising of funds to assist the management, administration, maintenance, planning, promotion, and further development of the Basin Reserve.
5. Generally, to do all acts, matters and things that the Trustees consider necessary or conducive to further or attain the objects of the Trust set out above for the benefit of the public of Wellington.
6. To operate as a successful undertaking, managed on a not-for-profit basis.
7. To preserve and enhance the significant and recognised heritage value of the Basin Reserve.
8. To comply with all legislative and regulatory provisions relating to its operation and performance, including statutory and general Council objectives for Council-controlled organisations, and to acknowledge the Council's contribution where appropriate.

2025-26 Activities

In line with the objectives of the Trust Deed, the BRT will focus on the following initiatives in 2025-26.

Events and Functions

The Basin Reserve is now a major venue of choice for the people of Wellington when it comes to events and functions. The venue plays host to a wide variety of users, including corporate days, family celebrations and of course, is enjoyed by many when cricket is played. In total, approximately 70 event days, 100 practice days, and 80 functions will be delivered, making the Basin a highly used space for the city.

An overview of the wide range of events that are planned for 2025-26 are outlined below.

Community and other Sport Events

The BRT is proud to be a venue for everyone, and key events for 2025-26 include:

- **Junior Rugby and Football** | Please note there will be no winter sports played at the Basin Reserve due to the turf renewal over the winter period (2025). There is a full intention to continue to support ground access for the winter codes in the 2026-27 financial year.
- **Beers at the Basin** | After the cancellation of the 2024 event, we have contractually locked in for 2025 the popular festival that displays Wellington's craft beer industry will continue to be a summer feature on the Basin's busy event calendar.
- **Summer Sessions at the Basin or similar** | We are exploring bringing back Summer Sessions at the Basin in March 2026 or a similar event. At this stage, it has not been budgeted for. Much like Beers and the Basin, the BRT is looking to establish this event or a similar event as a regular fixture in February/March each year, with Beers at the Basin operating annually in November.
- **Community Cricket** | A wide range of community cricket events will be held, including various club competitions finals, the boys and girls Primary School and Secondary School finals, a Disability Sport Day, Deaf Cricket, and junior cricket field days.
- **Ethnic Community Festival** | Cricket Wellington has established an Ethnic Community Festival that brings culture, music, food, and cricket together. In 2024/25, we held the inaugural Kilikiti Cricket Festival. This will be the largest community event of the year and is eagerly anticipated by both the Pacific Community and the Cricket Community of Wellington. This will continue in 2025-26 and has gained momentum year on year with the addition of Cricket Wellington now running a Kilikiti Competition over the summer at Fraser Park, Lower Hutt.

The Trust remains committed to increasing and diversifying the utilisation of the Basin Reserve and will continue to seek opportunities to increase usage of the venue by community and corporate groups, other sports organisations, and event hirers to drive the utilisation of the Basin Reserve as a function venue of choice.

Functions

The BRT has contracted Black and Gold Events to manage and promote the Norwood Room and Trish McKelvey in the RA Vance Stand as a venue for conferences, meetings, weddings, celebrations, Christmas functions or team building workshops. In total, 80 functions are expected to be hosted at the venue for 2025-26.

Domestic Cricket

The Basin Reserve is the home of Cricket Wellington and the home ground of the Wellington Firebirds in the Plunket Shield, Ford Trophy and Men's Super Smash, as well as the Wellington Blaze in the Hallyburton Johnston Shield and Women's Super Smash. The Basin also accommodates Cricket Wellington development teams. The Basin is planning to host 51 days of cricket events, with 100 days of use planned for the practice facilities.

International Cricket

In partnership with Wellington, NZ and Cricket Wellington, the BRT has bid to host a West Indies Test match in December 2025. We are still waiting for information about further international games in the summer of 2025-26 but are ready and prepared to host any team that comes to New Zealand, as an example we have also bid for the White Ferns vs South Africa (March 2026), and Blackcaps vs. West Indies ODI (December 2025) matches this summer.

Critically, the Trust has identified that securing international cricket fixtures is crucial for generating revenue and ensuring the ground remains at the forefront for New Zealand Cricket as a venue of choice. Future investment in facilities and general upgrades needs to be considered in alignment with enhancing the venue as a modern cricket facility that is fit for purpose for hosting international cricket.

Capital Projects

The major redevelopment of the Basin Reserve is now completed, which means the focus shifts to managing the assets under the asset renewal grant from the Wellington City Council.

Projects that were completed in 2024-25 include:

- The picket fence project is now complete, and we have sold off the old pickets to the community. This was a real success and allowed many people the opportunity to secure a piece of the ground's history.
- The last of the costs of the security review will be recognised in the 2024-25 financial year. We have now moved over to the council monitoring service, which greatly enhances the security of the venue moving forward.
- The LED big screen project was operational in time for the England Test match in December 2024. We were fortunate with funding of a \$300k donation from the Wellington Cricket Trust, and Class 4 Funding of \$150k (NZCT, Pelorus, and Pub Charity). This will greatly enhance the Basin as a venue; we will now be able to appeal to more users, for example, Relay for Life, and hold events such as movie nights, which will increase revenue.
- The sight screens project was completed in time for the summer of cricket in 2024-25. This was funded by the Wellington City Council. There were some challenges with the fabric used, and not meeting the challenges of the Wellington wind. Temporary solutions have been found, and these will be fixed after the summer season has finished.

Proposed new Capital Projects are critical to ensure the Basin continues to be a world-class facility. We are in the process of working with key stakeholders to establish what developments the ground needs over the next 4 years. The main areas of focus are:

- Permanent broadcast towers – to reduce the overlay costs for the broadcast of domestic and international cricket. Permanent broadcast towers, as opposed to the temporary structures that are erected each summer, have a significantly reduced footprint; they will provide a revenue opportunity (advertising) for the Trust and will also enhance the Basin's ability to

secure international cricket (by reducing costs to the broadcast partner). To this point, this is a directive from New Zealand Cricket in order to continue to host international matches.

- Hybrid hospitality areas – to remove high set-up costs (such as scaffolding, marquees, furniture hire) to generate not only more revenue but also ensure we meet requirements around health and safety, ground aesthetics, and accessibility.

Sponsorship and Fundraising

The BRT remains committed to assisting with fundraising and sponsorship, while remaining dedicated to exploring further commercial opportunities for the venue generally.

Key opportunities that the BRT are progressing:

- **Naming Rights Partner** | the Trust is currently working with Cello to extend them as naming rights sponsor for a further two years from September 2025.
- **Digital Billboards** | the Trust have signed an Agreement to Licence and are also investigating digital billboard opportunities at the Basin Reserve to grow a more sustainable revenue base that would provide the BRT with additional income to support the redevelopment and ongoing maintenance. The resource consent is currently sitting with the Wellington Council.

The Trust will report on progress each quarter.

Cricket Wellington and The New Zealand Cricket Museum

The Basin Reserve is the home of Cricket Wellington, the Regional Sports Organisation for cricket in Wellington, and the New Zealand Cricket Museum. The Old Pavilion Stand is home to the Cricket Wellington offices and the national Cricket Museum, which officially reopened in December 2021. The New Zealand Cricket Museum records the history of cricket and tells the story of the Basin Reserve through its newly developed and modernised storytelling and displays.

The Trust recognises the significance of being the home of the New Zealand Cricket Museum as it aligns with the Council's objective of having fit-for-purpose community, creative and cultural spaces. The Museum is a place where people can come to connect, develop, and express their arts, culture, and heritage. This drives additional and diverse visitation to the venue via private group tours, educational school trips, cricket match day experiences and will be open every Sunday to the public.

New Zealand Cricket, along with the New Zealand Cricket Museum, launched the Hall of Fame in December 2024 during the English Test match with 11 inductees. This will now be an annual tradition that we are proud to host and hold at the Basin Reserve.

Wellington Regional Stadium Trust (WRST) Turf Services Partnership

The BRT will continue to work in partnership with the WRST to ensure that the Basin reserve outfield, wicket blocks and practice wickets are world-class. A significant proportion of the operating grant provided to the BRT from Wellington City Council covers the costs associated with the Turf Services Agreement between the BRT and WRST, which are costs that continue to increase year on year.

1. Strategic Alignment to WCC

The BRT aligns its strategic and service delivery to Wellington City Council in the following ways:

Strategy	BRT Alignment
Tupiki Ora and Takai Here	<p>The Trust is committed to being an exemplary partner in championing the Māori strategic objectives. We are dedicated to building our relationship with the city’s two mandated mana whenua organisations and actively contributing to the realisation of the Māori well-being strategy in partnership with the Council and other CCOs. The Trust is dedicated to being on the waka and supporting the key pillars identified, while also being acutely aware that we must respect the journey and develop trusted relationships with our mana whenua partners. The Trust propose the following focus areas for 2025-26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Align with the Te Taihū – to reo Māori Policy to update all venue signage – this has some challenges due to the Heritage status of the ground and the limitations to what we can do in this space, but we will continue to try and find solutions. – Collaborate with WCC City Design Project and mana whenua partners to tell the story of the Basin and reflect its cultural heritage visibly in the venue. – Partner with events at the venue to ensure inclusion of te reo Māori, i.e., cricket event days. – To work with Cricket Wellington to embrace WCC’s Whare Kura learning management system as the key mechanism for Cricket Wellington staff to be upskilled in Te Reo Māori and Te Tiriti training. – To work with Cricket Wellington’s Māori development officer to ensure all staff who work at the Basin Reserve understand Te Ao Māori and use those learnings to enhance the mana of the ground.
Te Atakura - First to Zero	<p>The BRT was first awarded the Toitu Carbon Zero status on 19 December 2019 and will ensure that we remain a carbon-zero footprint venue to contribute to the Council’s aim of being a zero-carbon capital by 2050. This includes the introduction of bike storage areas at the venue, promotion of scooters and e-bikes as a form of transport to events and being an advocate for key actions within the Te Atakura First to Zero plan.</p> <p>The BRT will continue to support the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in conjunction with venue caterers and hirers. This includes utilising specific bins throughout the venue for recycling, glass, and general waste, as well as using a specific bin for grass waste. Furthermore, we now adhere to the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw for events of 1,000 people or more. Additionally, we will continue to align with Black and Gold to minimise waste, which has seen a significant reduction in plastic waste due to vendors using compostable packaging and the introduction of goblets to replace plastic cups at events.</p>

Aho Tini 2030 – Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy	The trust will play an active role in identifying any suitable opportunities that may exist for the arts and culture sector to better utilise the Basin's assets. We will actively engage with the trustees of the Cricket Museum to see what opportunities we can partner on to highlight the arts using the museum as a backdrop. We will also work with existing and new partners to bring concerts, exhibitions, etc, to the Basin Reserve.
Strategy for Children and Young People	The BRT will ensure it aligns with the strategy for Children and Young People by ensuring the venue is always a safe place, specifically by partnering with events that focus on our youth.
Economic Wellbeing Strategy	The Trust will support the Council regarding the development and implementation of new strategies in the areas of economic wellbeing by partnering with Cricket Wellington on such things as their young leaders' programme aimed at Rangatahi boys and girls, and developing their leadership skills. We will use their graduates to provide a resource when events are being held at the Basin, e.g. international tests.
Urban Form	<p>The Basin Reserve Trust supports Wellington City Council's vision for a sustainable, inclusive city and aligns its operations and planning with the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Celebrating Māori and multicultural heritage: The Trust is working with mana whenua to incorporate Te Ao Māori and multicultural narratives into site design, signage, and programming. – Supporting zero-carbon transport: The Basin promotes public and active transport, with future developments enhancing walking, cycling, and public transport access. – Delivering resilient infrastructure: Recent and planned upgrades ensure the Basin is future-fit, safe, and able to support population and visitor growth while protecting its heritage. – Planning for climate change: Climate risks are factored into all development, with a focus on sustainable materials, weather resilience, and alignment with city-wide climate goals.
Accessible Wellington, The Accessible Journey Action Plan 2019	The BRT will continue to support the Accessible Wellington, The Accessible Journey Action Plan 2019, and continue to allow free lounge access to the Basin Reserve Trish McKelvey Lounge on match days. Advancing our commitment to the plan, the Trust will support Cricket Wellington through maintaining the Rainbow Tick diversity and inclusion certification process in 2025/2026. We will also host disability groups on the Basin through our community days and work to ensure everyone can access the Basin Reserve facilities in a safe and welcoming manner.

Our Strategic Relationship

The Trust expects to be involved with the strategic development of the venue, in particular the investment in the development/upgrade of key infrastructure in the venue and involvement with the annual asset management plan. The Trust intends to play an active role in the CCO collective and understands our position in supporting other CCO strategies and objectives.

2. Specific Expectations

Poneke – the creative capital where people and nature thrive, with the following initiatives:

Strategy	BRT Alignment
<p>Due to the financial pressures Council is facing, Council expects the Trust to manage costs within its budget and explore opportunities for increased revenue generation to enable the Trust to deliver on its strategy and Council expectations. Council understands that this may lead the Trust to look at its service offering as well as new revenue opportunities.</p>	<p>The Basin Reserve Trust acknowledges Council’s financial constraints and is committed to managing costs within budget while exploring new revenue opportunities.</p> <p>To achieve this, the Trust will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Control costs – streamline operations, optimise procurement, and leverage partnerships to enhance efficiency. – Increase revenue – explore expanding sponsorship, attract diverse events, review pricing strategies, and explore new income streams such as naming rights and advertising outside of current agreements. – Optimise services – assess event offerings, enhance visitor experiences, and balance commercial activities with community access. <p>By focusing on financial sustainability while maintaining the Basin Reserve’s integrity, the Trust will continue delivering value to Wellington City Council and the community.</p>
<p>Council expects the Trust to explore opportunities for maximising and diversifying the number of events it hosts, including utilising the new big screen TV asset</p>	<p>The Basin Reserve Trust is committed to increasing and diversifying event opportunities in alignment with Wellington City Council’s strategy.</p> <p>To achieve this, the Trust will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expand event offerings – explore attracting a broader range of sporting, cultural, and community events beyond cricket. – Leverage the big screen – utilise the new screen for live broadcasts, fan engagement, advertising, and community-focused events such as outdoor movie nights and public screenings. – Enhance venue appeal – promote the Basin Reserve as a premier event destination by working with promoters, event organisers, and stakeholders, including Wellington NZ. – Improve accessibility – streamline booking processes and optimise scheduling to accommodate more events while balancing community and commercial needs. <p>Through these initiatives, the Trust will maximise the venue’s potential, generate additional revenue, and enhance Wellington’s event landscape.</p>
<p>The Basin Reserve Trust continues to recognise and support the use of the Reserve as a green public space and a vital connection in the walking and cycling network for the city</p>	<p>The BRT has played an active role in supporting the Newtown to City cycleway project that passes through the Basin Reserve. This includes the Commonwealth walkway improvements as well as appropriate signage and safety measures for a mixed pedestrian and cycle area. We will continue to work with the council to address the issues of speed and safety that have arisen due to the new cycle lanes, aiming to achieve a solution that ensures the best outcome for all users of the Basin Reserve.</p>

3. Performance Targets

In line with Wellington City Council's 2024-34 Ten Year Plan, the BRT aims to deliver the following performance measures for 2025-26:

Measure	24-25 Forecast	25-26 Q1	25-26 Q2	25-26 Q3	25-26 Q4	25-26 Total
Quarterly Targets						
Ticketed Cricket Events at the Basin	12	0	7	5	0	12
Practice facility usage (Days)	100	15	45	40	0	100
Functions*	80	20	20	20	20	80

*Measured as the number of functions held at the venue, not as days as per other performance targets.

Measure	2025-26 Forecast
Numbers attending events*	40,000
Event Income (\$) –	409,600
Council Operating Grant ^ (\$)	872,766
Cash Subsidy (grant) per attendance (\$)	\$21.82

^Includes turf management fee.

4. Governance

The Trust Deed establishes the BRT under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 for the purposes of managing and administering the Basin Reserve. Wellington City Council has appointed the BRT to manage the Basin Reserve under a Management Deed (relating to the Basin Reserve). These two key documents set out how the BRT will govern the Basin Reserve.

The BRT is governed by a Board comprising four Trustees, two appointed by Cricket Wellington and two by Wellington City Council. The Board meet at least four times a year and appoints subcommittees as it deems appropriate to fulfil its obligations. The Trustees set the strategic direction for the BRT and approve the Statement of Intent and Annual Business Plan. The Trustees monitor the organisational performance and ensure that the Trust has appropriate policies and procedures to mitigate its risks (including compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015).

Trust Membership

- Alan Isaac (Chair) (appointed by Wellington City Council)
- Councillor John Apanowicz (appointed by Wellington City Council)
- Mike Horsley (appointed by Cricket Wellington)
- John Greenwood (appointed by Cricket Wellington)

Performance Management

The performance of the Trust is measured in part by the achievement of agreed KPIs, with regard to operational activities. The Chair of the Board will undertake an annual evaluation of Trustee

performance and will provide an update to Council by 30 September 2025. Further, the individual performance of Trustees is monitored by the Wellington City Council (in respect of the two Council-appointed Trustees) and Cricket Wellington (with regard to the two Cricket Wellington-appointed Trustees).

The Trust acknowledges the need for ongoing professional development opportunities for Trustees and encourages the undertaking of specialist training for identified needs. The Board will, on an annual basis, implement a programme that supports the identified needs. This may include programmes such as those offered by the NZ Institute of Directors (or similar) or specialist knowledge building from appropriate agencies.

5. Finance

The budget is generally conservative, which is developed on the basis of breaking even and in line with the activity outlined in this document.

Analysis

The following are the key details and assumptions for the budget that result in an operating loss of \$95,091 for the 2025-26 financial year.

Revenue - \$1,391,490 is forecast in the budget.

Revenue	Forecast 2024-25*	Forecast 2025-26	Comment
Council Funding	\$842,438	\$872,766	
Asset Renewal and Turf Management	\$446,150	\$134,131	<i>Asset Renewal and Turf Management funding is lower in the 2025-26 year.</i>
Sale of goods and services	\$393,639	\$391,793	
Interest	\$7,019	\$4,800	
Total	\$1,689,246	\$1,391,490	

*Forecast until end of FY2024-25. Please note, that we have capitalised \$165,469 of costs funded by the Asset Renewal Fund in the FY2024-25 year, which means the estimated operating loss of \$65,413 will now result in a surplus of \$100,056. In future years, we will have higher depreciation costs in the FR2025-26 due to this capitalisation (in line with accounting standards). We have assumed 100% of the asset renewal income in the FY2025-26 year will be expensed at this stage.

Expenditure

Expenditure of \$1,486,580 is included within the budget.

Expenses	Forecast 2024-25	Forecast 2025-26	Comment
Depreciation	\$77,194	\$85,105	<i>This includes the depreciation of the new screen at \$24k per year.</i>
Costs relating to providing goods and services	\$1,224,995	\$1,261,024	<i>Larger cost increases include turf management, rates, and insurance for the screen (new cost).</i>

Asset Renewal and Turf Management Costs**	\$280,681	\$134,131	<i>Note that in 2025, we allocated the \$261,150 received in the Asset Renewal fund to: \$95,681 expenses \$165,469 Capitalised to the Fixed Asset Register.</i>
Other expenses	\$6,320	\$6,320	
Total	\$1,589,190	\$1,486,580	

The expense side of the budget has been developed based on business as usual and a realistic estimate of the costs associated with operating the BRT.

Capital Expenditure

Capital Expenditure is forecast at \$99,732 in line with the WCC Asset Renewal Budget.

Cashflow

Cash flow varies throughout the year as key revenues from grants are received quarterly.

Risks

The main financial risks are as follows:

- Concession agreement with Black and Gold is terminated.
- Inability to secure international cricket fixtures.
- The domestic cricket season does not proceed as planned.
- Increased repairs and maintenance are required.

Estimate of the amount intended for distribution

There is no intention to pay out reserves to stakeholders.

Acquisition procedures

There is no intention to make any acquisitions.

Estimate of the commercial value of the stakeholder's investment

N/A