

Wellington – Biophilic City

Amber Bill, Open Spaces & Parks Manager

amber.bill@wcc.govt.nz

November 2014

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Background

Biophilia

Biophilia is a term that was coined by eminent biologist E.O. Wilson (1984). It defines the attraction and affinity humans have with nature. Increased urbanisation, coupled with the increased densification of cities and the loss of natural preserves within and adjacent to cities, has led to a disconnect between people and the natural world. At its worst extent, Louv (2005) describes this disconnection as Nature Deficit Disorder. At a community level this disorder can lead to a lack of connectedness to place and to social disorder.



'Placelessness'



Chris Daniels, University of South Australia

A New Conservation

After spending decades struggling to fence off nature from people, conservation is emerging on the global stage with a new vision that emphasizes the importance of connecting nature and people.

Gretchen Daily et al, 2013.

BiophilicCities

[HOME](#)[THE PROJECT](#)[BIOPHILIC CITIES](#)[RESOURCES](#)[BLOG](#)[LAUNCH HOME](#)[JOIN THE BIOPHILIC CITIES NETWORK](#)

Welcome!

We need nature in our lives more than ever today, and as more of us are living in cities it must be urban nature. Biophilic Cities are cities that contain abundant nature; they are cities that care about, seek to protect, restore and grow this nature, and that strive to foster deep connections and daily contact with the natural world. Nature is not something optional, but absolutely essential to living a happy, healthy and meaningful life. This site is devoted to understanding how cities can become more biophilic, more full of nature, and to telling the stories of the places and people working to creatively build these urban-nature connections.



BIOPHILIC CITIES NETWORK



SEARCH

SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST

RECENTLY TWEETED

Are nature lovers more innovative? New #research in Singapore aims to find out [sciencedirect.com/science/art...](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/art...)

About 3 weeks ago from Biophilic Cities's Twitter via web

Biophilic Cities

- **Recognises innate need for a connection to nature**
- **Places of easily accessible and abundant nature**
- **Celebrates unique nature and biodiversity**
- **Inspired by and learns from nature**
- **Designs and plans with nature**
- **Citizens actively involved in enjoying, watching and participating in the nature around them**

Beatley (2011) Biophilic Cities: integrating nature into urban design and planning

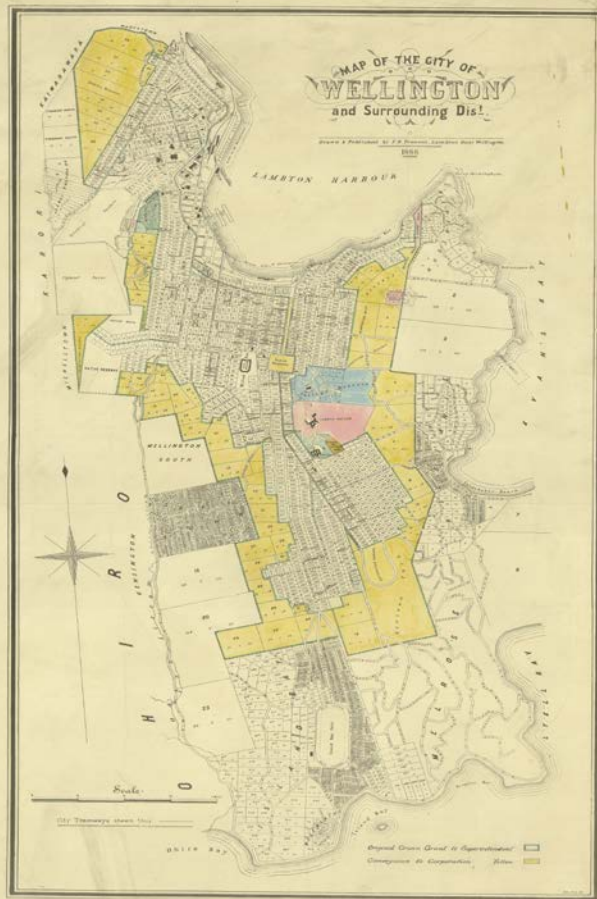


WELLINGTON

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council

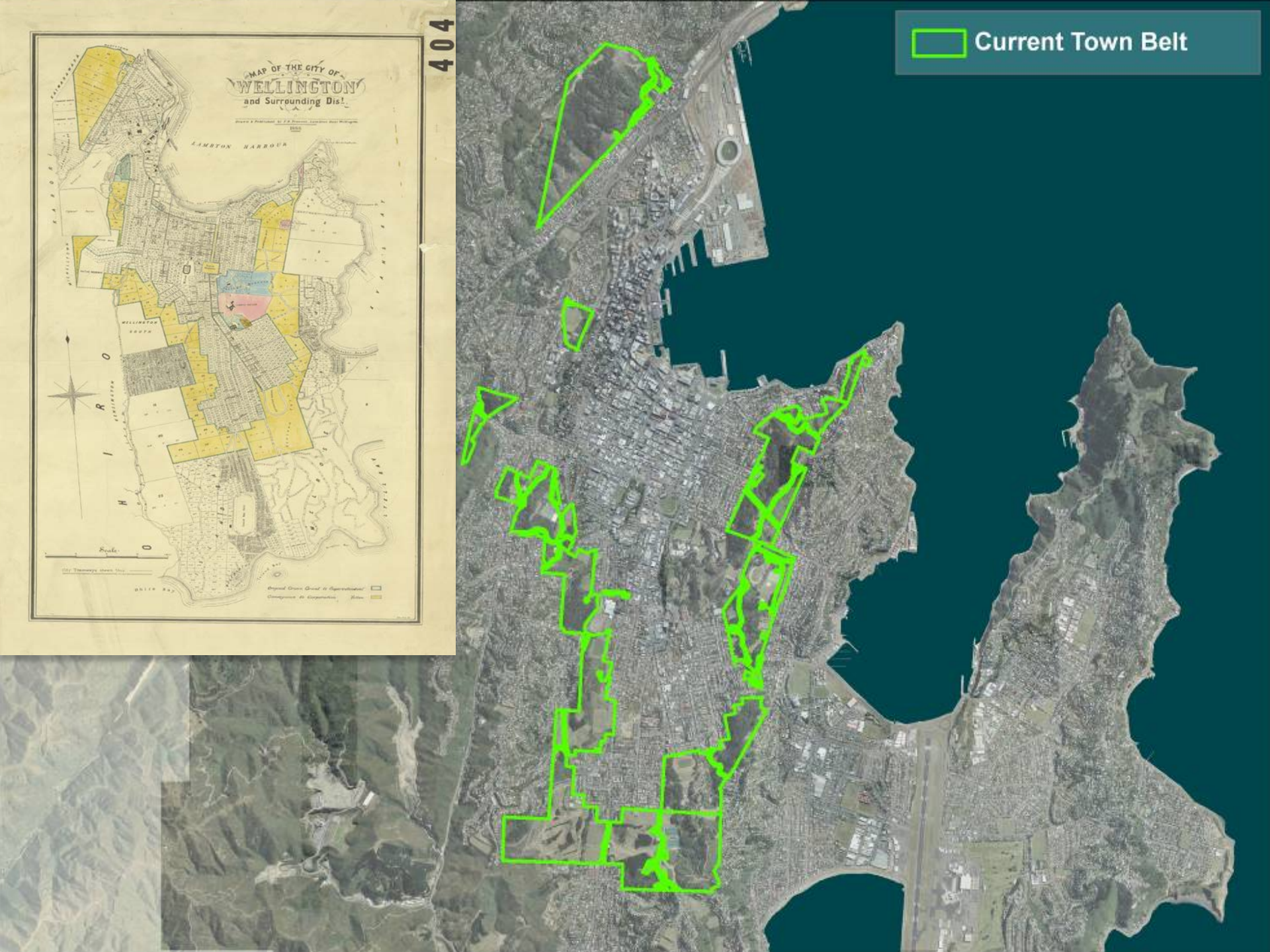
Me Heke Ki Pōneke





404

Current Town Belt

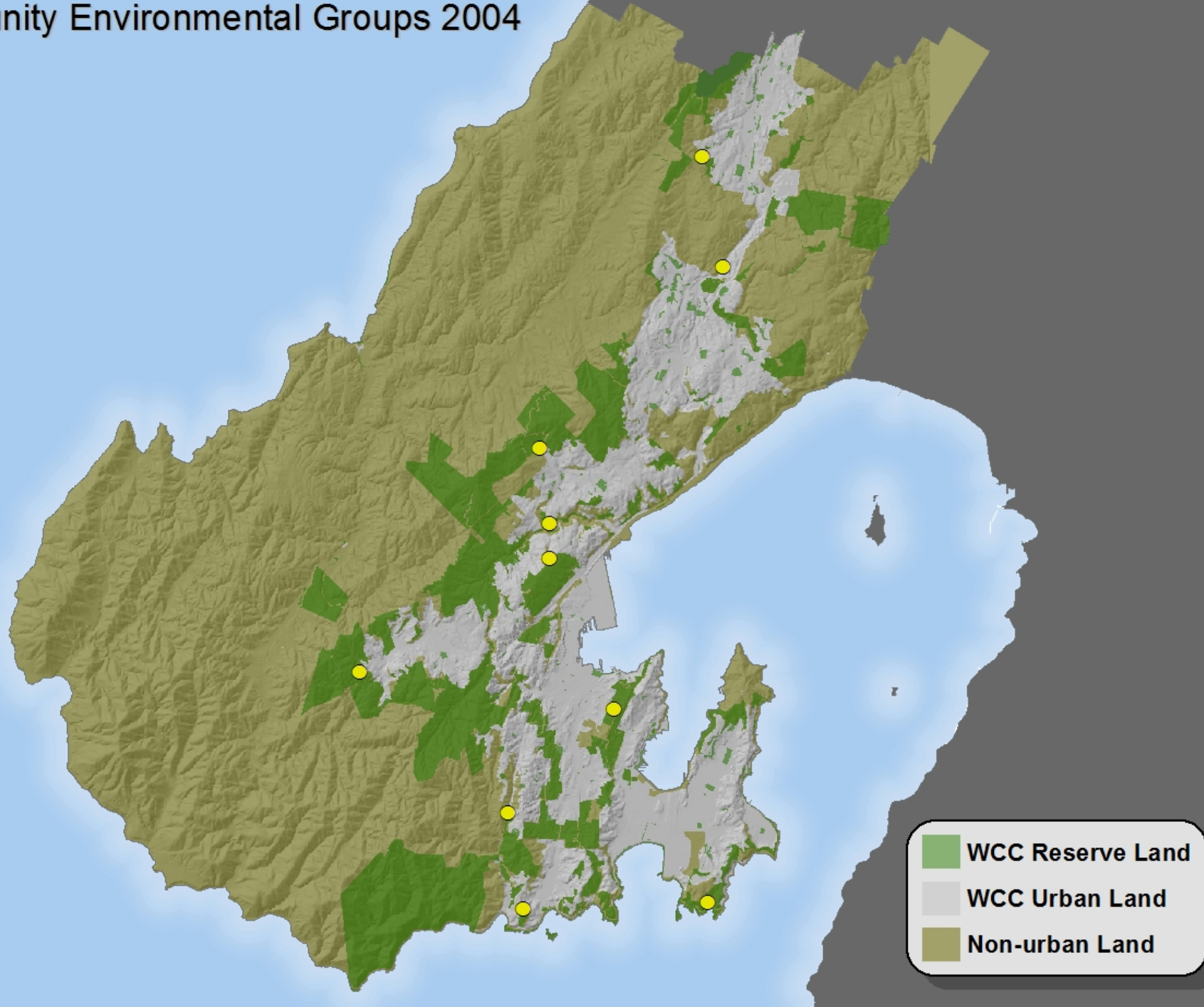




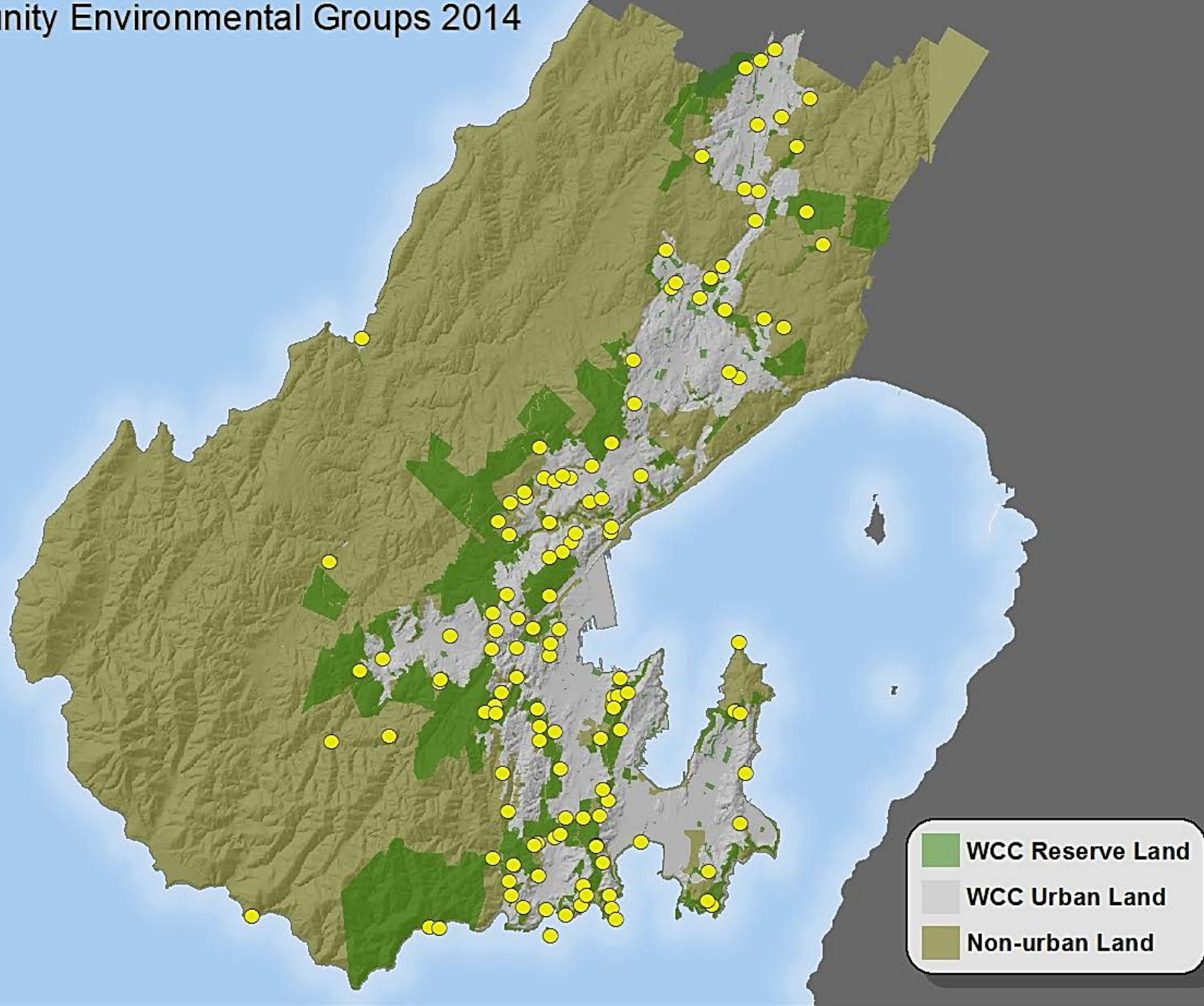
CONNECTING WITH NATURE



Community Environmental Groups 2004



Community Environmental Groups 2014



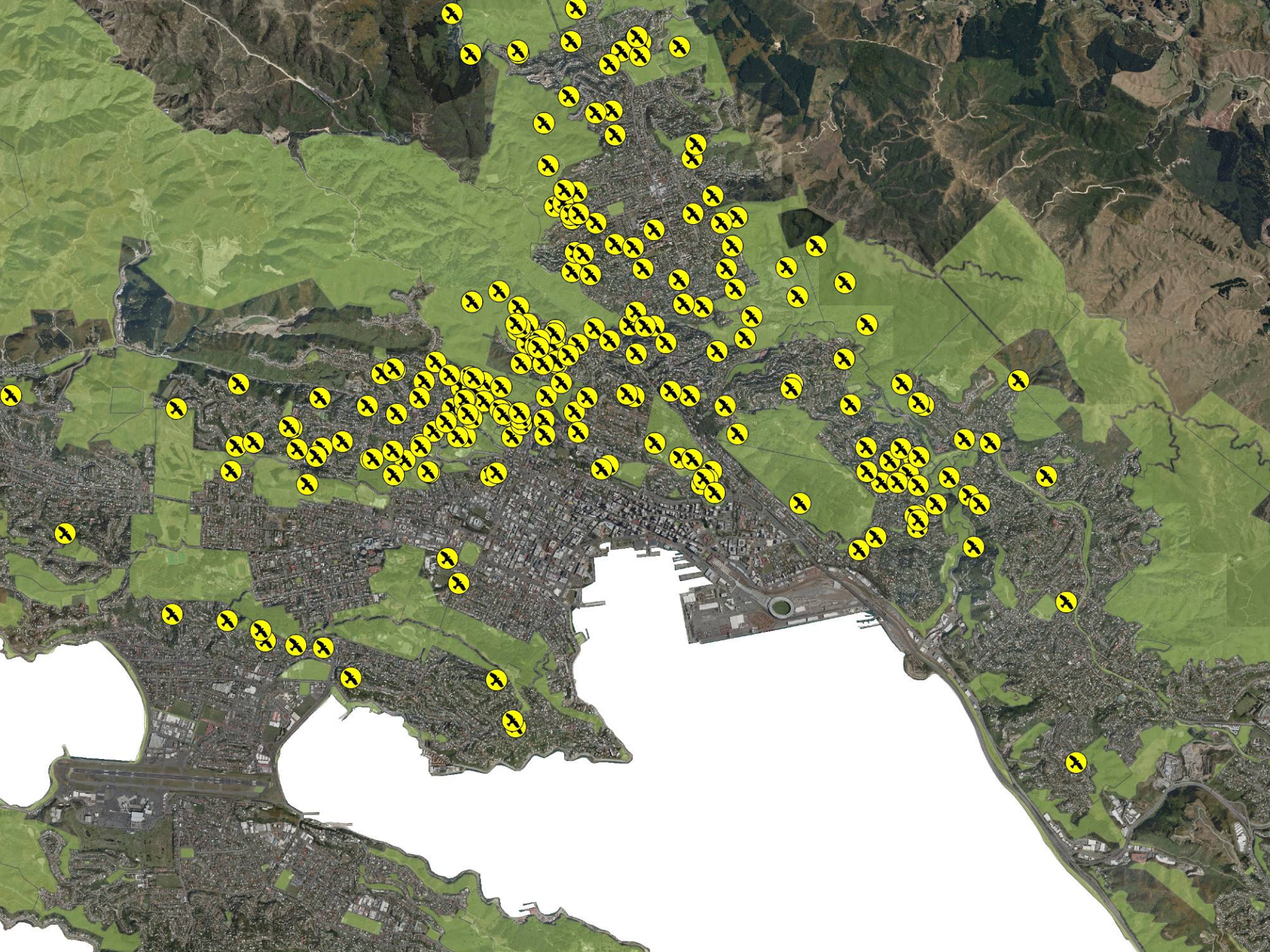
















Research

- Impact of increased greenery and participation in local planting on peoples' well-being (*Julie Whitburn*)
- Biodiversity outcomes of restoration sites (*Nicky Oliver-Smith*)
- ESS valuation, Wellington Botanic Garden (*Simon Coats*)
- Urban pest management – chew cards, CatTracker (*Dr Heidy Kikillus*)
- Role of Citizen Science, eg. nest monitoring
- Indicators of a biophilic city *Dr Heidy Kikillus & Dr Philip Roetmann*

Policy context

- Our Capital Spaces: open spaces and recreation framework for Wellington (2013)
 - Getting everyone active and healthy
 - Protecting our birds, nature, streams and landscapes
 - Contributing to Wellington's outstanding quality of life
 - Doing it together
- Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Reserve Management Planning
- District Planning
- Wellington Urban Growth Plan

OUTCOMES



Biodiversity recovery



Quality of life

A group of about ten people, mostly young adults, are standing on a small, dark-colored boat in the middle of a large body of water. They are all looking towards the left side of the frame, where a large group of dolphins is visible. The dolphins are creating white splashes as they move through the blue-green water. In the background, a city with various buildings is visible along the coast, and behind that, a range of green hills or mountains under a clear blue sky.

2014 Quality of Life survey rated Wellington
as the #1 place to live in New Zealand

“One of the selling points of Wellington is that if you come here, you can get to the sea, you can climb in the bush, you can mountain bike, and you can enjoy the forest. It has become a sense of who we are.”

- Sir Paul Callaghan





1907



2007



2013