

Kia ora Mayor and Councillors, ko Rory toku ingoa.

The first thing we want to discuss is housing, which has been one of the biggest difficulties facing students for some time, and is getting worse year on year. I know that this council is well aware of the issue, and that a number of you around the table are supportive of acting on it in order to make Wellington a Student Friendly City. But in the interest of our students who are about to sink into yet another winter of misery and sickness at the hands of substandard housing, I'm going to remind you of their situation.

Every flat hunting season since I have been a student in Wellington since 2012, people are more desperate. First is the fiasco of finding a place. Day after day of going to viewings with 30 or 40 other people, and applying for the flat despite knowing that the family or young professionals are going to be preferred.

Once you find something, which may be after sleeping on someone else's couch for the first few weeks of trimester, the place is probably fine when the sun is in it at that time of year. But as soon as winter approaches, these houses become freezing, and the mould starts taking over.

Tori Sellwood, a Vic student, talks about wearing two pairs of pants, a couple of jumpers, a puffer jacket, multiple socks and beanies just to stay warm. And despite all this, shivering so much she couldn't sleep.

Another student Kayla told us about her effort in vain to stop the mould growing in her room. Her dehumidifier had mould growing on it, despite having it running constantly.

We know the only thing that can fix this crisis is the Rental WOF. Health and housing experts have been demonstrating it for some time, and with our confidence the Council has supported it.

It is essential that the council does not let recent inadequate measures by Government, take the wind out of its sails on this issue. The national minimum standards only address insulation which is a small piece of the puzzle. Labour's healthy homes bill is unlikely to be passed with any meaningful differences, and even if it is it completely fails to address the enforcement issue which will be key to any successful attempt to make a difference for students.

Liveability is a key theme in the annual plan, and having a warm dry house that doesn't make you sick, is pretty important as part of this, and a key part of Wellington becoming a student friendly city.

The second thing I want to talk about relates to the Low Carbon Capital Plan, most of which we are very supportive of, and we congratulate the work of the council in spearheading the City's climate change strategy so far which culminated in the recent 2% emissions reduction.

In terms of the targets, we think 80% by 2050 is not ambitious enough. If Wellington really wants to be a leading City on climate mitigation, we need to be aiming for at least zero net emissions by 2030. Copenhagen for example has a plan of zero emissions by 2020.

The proposed 80% by 2050 would fail to meet the UN goal of staying under 1.5% warming, and wouldn't even meet back up goal of 2%. In order to meet these targets Wellington would have to be carbon zero by 2030, and we think at the very least, our City should be aiming for zero emissions by 2050.

The other element of the Low Carbon Capital plan that we wanted to raise are the plans around waste minimisation. The Council clearly takes waste minimisation seriously, but recent blacklisting of hundreds of student flats is not going to help reduce waste.

These flats no longer receive recycling bags so can't recycle, and each year when new students move into one of these blacklisted flats they are never going to learn how the recycling system works.

Education is the key here. New students to the city don't know how the system works, and we hope to partner with council to provide some targeted education to students at the start of the year so that they can learn. This is a way to fix the problem, rather than ignoring it and imposing a blacklist.