

Keeping Wellington Beautiful

Huge kudos to local legend Melissa Lieser for re-launching the Wellington branch of Keep New Zealand Beautiful and working hard to keep pollution out of our waterways.

A medallist at the 2026 Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards, Melissa had already personally removed over a tonne of rubbish from bays around the city prior to bringing back Keep Wellington Beautiful.

"I come down once a week. I usually try to do it before work. I clean for an hour and a half and listen to podcasts and have a little meditative time. I usually get five to 10 kilos of rubbish," she told me.

Keep Wellington Beautiful welcomes all ages and gear is provided. For more information, visit their Facebook page.



Here to help

As always, get in touch if you need any assistance from my team or if you'd like me to visit your school, workplace, business or club. I'm big on doing things in person so, please, don't hesitate to sing out.

To keep up-to-date, please follow me on Facebook and/or Instagram.

For more information and to read previous newsletters visit rongotai.greens.org.nz

Phone: 04 389 1290
E-mail: rongotai@parliament.govt.nz
Address: 2/72 Adelaide Rd, Newtown



Supporting climate initiatives

When my colleague Wellington Central MP Tamatha Paul and I heard that Wellington City Council was looking at slashing their fund for climate change initiatives by \$1.6 million, we jumped into action. In support of some great mahi by Green Councillors Rebecca Matthews, Geordie Rogers, Laurie Foon and Jonny Osborne, we launched a petition calling for the planned cuts to be scrapped.

The combined effort proved worthwhile because when the Annual Plan was signed off, \$800,000 of the funding was restored.

Backing the community

I love being able to support great causes, events and projects across the electorate. Recently this has included sponsoring the halal sausage sizzle at the Strathmore Community Centres Freshen Up for School event. My office also organised and sponsored an information session at the Kilbirnie Masjid (mosque) to help ensure people were getting the support they were entitled to from Work and Income. Other projects have included being a sponsor of and a stallholder at the Newtown Festival and having stalls at the Island Bay Festival, NZ Eid Day Festivals and Out in the City.

Let us know if you're raising funds for a local cause. There's a number of ways we can help so, please, get in touch.

From Rongotai to Wellington Bays

The coming election is going to see a change to our electorate. In addition to its name becoming Wellington Bays, the electorate will expand to include Mt Cook and parts of Brooklyn. The change is the result of shifts in population and required to keep all the electorates a similar size. Personally, I much prefer the old name and while officially the electorate will be known as Wellington Bays, it'll always be Rongotai to me.

Learn more about our vision for the future here:

www.greens.org.nz

Auth by Julie Anne Genter, Green Party MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. Funded by Parliamentary Services.

ELECTORATE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

Julie Anne Genter
RONGOTAI MP



Kia ora koutou!

I hope this finds you well and enjoying/surviving winter in our wonderful part of the world. What follows is an update on the work my team and I have been doing to serve you, the people of Rongotai, along with a couple of good news stories I think you'll enjoy.

Recovering from the floods

I don't think many of us will ever forget April's floods. They turned people's lives and businesses upside down and did millions of dollars' worth of damage. They were also a brutal illustration of the impact of climate change. The morning the flood waters hit, I was out visiting impacted businesses and homes, and it was inspiring to see so many people dropping what they were doing to help others. I was also lucky enough to join the Student Volunteer Army on one of their mud-clearing operations. My team worked with the SVA to get help to people who needed it and was part of the community clean-up in Ōwhiro Bay. We also used our social media channels to amplify emergency messages and to celebrate some of the heroes who emerged from the disaster. I've also been attending subsequent meetings organised by locals impacted by the floods to better understand the long-term impacts so I can better advocate for meaningful change.

Still needing help? Let us know, we can assist with dealing with council or central government.

Want to help? Donations are still being received to the Mayoral Relief Fund.

Making a difference on Moa Point

The unexpected collapse of the city's wastewater treatment plant was a disaster that continues to cause huge damage to the economy and the environment. Immediately after it happened, I called for a full and independent investigation. My Green Party colleague Wellington Central MP Tamatha Paul and I then organised a public meeting at St Patrick's College Hall in Kilbirnie, which nearly 400 people attended. It gave people the chance to hear from Mayor Andrew Little, Wellington Water representatives and other experts and to ask them questions and to share their thoughts on the crisis.





One of the things that became clear was just how much people wanted transparency around how the collapse was investigated. With this in mind, Tamatha and I successfully lobbied for the release of Wellington Water's preliminary report into the cause of the disaster.

I also encouraged local business association Destination KRL, to lobby WCC to set up a relief fund for businesses impacted by Moa Point. To WCC's credit, the fund was launched in May.

Tamatha and I also exposed flaws in the Government's Terms of Reference for the Crown Review into the disaster. These included the review not being required to determine the actual cause of the breakdown and a lack of commitment to holding its proceedings in public.

My office has also:

Worked to get Public Health to clarify its messaging on whether it's safe to collect kai moana from the south coast (it's not) and to make a statement explaining the risks associated with contaminated sea spray (you want to avoid it when the short outfall pipe is in use and you're nearby).

More recently I publicly called on the new operators of the plant, Tiaki Wai, to commit to staffing Moa Point 24-7.

My office continues to closely monitor the impact of the disaster and use our social media channels to help get important messages out to the public while advocating for changes that ensure it never happens again.

Standing against job cuts

Our public service supports vital services in health, education, infrastructure, disaster response and recovery, and so much more. The Coalition's plan to axe another 8700 civil servants' jobs is a predictable move by a government desperate to make people

think that someone else is responsible for the state of the economy. Ironically, cutting thousands of jobs and outsourcing them to overseas AI companies will be bad for local business and could end up costing more when those companies hike their prices.

I'm challenging the plan every chance I get and highlighting areas where the government could save money, such as some of its eye-wateringly expensive private public partnership roading projects that are both unnecessary and unaffordable.



Go Predator Free Miramar!

Thank you so much to everyone who is making Predator Free Miramar such a wonderful success story. Native species detections on the peninsula have increased by over 136% since 2017 and each year that the peninsula is predator free adds to the previous year's gains. Breeding success compounds and populations strengthen. That means more kārearea, kākārīki, kākā, pīwakawaka, kōtare, riroriro, tūi and ruru, as well as geckos.

Miramar, Kilbirnie, Lyall Bay, Rongotai and Hataitai have been cleared but rats are always trying to invade so, if you see any sign of them in those areas, please call **0800 NO RATS** (0800 667 287).

Predator Free Wellington is now focusing on Berhampore and Southgate. If you'd like your property to be included in their network or you'd like to volunteer: email hello@pfw.org.nz

Making an impact in ways that count

In the two and half years since our electorate office opened, we've helped around 450 constituents with a huge range of challenges. Those people have included over 90 with housing needs, over 100 with immigration problems, over 50 with health issues, over 50 needing help with social services and over

60 with things like neighbourhood disputes. One of the reasons we get such good results is the quality of my team. Dakota, Te Rēhia, Matt and Tessa are all committed to public service and making a meaningful difference in Rongotai. Whether it's going to bat for renters with mould issues, helping constituents improve their rating on the social housing waiting list, organising events to bring the community together or getting people the healthcare they need, Dakota, Te Rēhia, Matt and Tessa use their experience, skills and connections to make things happen.



Keeping connected

I'm a big fan of doing things face-to-face which is why we've been running regular catch-ups across the electorate. Thank you to everyone who has come along and to our hosts: Waitoa in Hataitai, Double Vision Brewing in Miramar, Moon Bar in Newtown and Arcimboldi in Seatoun. Keep an eye out for more 'Catch-up with Your Local MP' sessions coming soon.



My mahi

This is such a special, diverse and caring community. I love Rongotai and being your MP is the privilege of a lifetime. It's true Wellington has had a tough time recently but I'm convinced that with progressive and inclusive leadership its best days are still to come. **Thank you for welcoming me into your homes, schools, clubs, workplaces, places of worship and neighbourhoods.**

