

Welcome to Wellington

Monday 12 November, 10:10am – 10:20am

I'd like to welcome delegates to Wellington for the Trafinz 2018 Conference. The theme 'Prioritising for People' is very pertinent to the city as it looks forward to a major transport milestone. Let's Get Wellington Moving, a joint initiative between the city and regional councils and the NZ Transport Agency, will later this year reveal its plans to reduce congestion and make Wellington a more liveable city. "We want to give people more options to take public transport, cycle or walk so people also have the option of leaving the car at home," the Mayor says. A survey has shown Wellingtonians want better public transport and fewer cars in more liveable central city streets, and are backing a number of exciting plans to get the capital moving. "There is most support for light rail to the airport and bus rapid transit, which shows people want other options than cars," the Mayor says.

Justin Lester, Mayor Wellington City Council



Justin Lester was elected Mayor in 2016 after two terms as a councillor. During his time on Council, Justin has championed the living wage, prioritised good quality local services and supported local businesses. He feels strongly that good local government services make a huge difference in people's lives. Justin's priorities as Mayor include kick-starting the economy, making housing affordable, improving Wellington's transport, replacing outdated bylaws and prioritising arts funding. He also wants to establish the country's first wet house, provide a rates rebate for first-home builders and create the world's first predator-free capital.

Justin grew up in Invercargill. He has an LLB and a BA (German) from the University of Otago and a Masters of Laws (LLM) from the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

In his mid-twenties, Justin co-founded Kapai, a Wellington food enterprise. Justin has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. He was formerly the Director of Property and Asset Management at international commercial property firm Jones Lang LaSalle. He has served on the Boards of Wellington SPCA, Wellington Waterfront Ltd, Capital Football, Johnsonville Charitable Trust, Johnsonville Property Trust, and as a Guardian at Zealandia.

Justin and his wife Liz have two young daughters and live in Johnsonville.