

OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>:



## Wellington Marathon Cancelled

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**Due to the government's ongoing Covid-19 Alert Level restrictions, we regret to advise that the 2021 Wellington Marathon on October 10th has been forced to cancel.**

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With Auckland and Waikato at Alert Level 3 and Wellington and wider New Zealand staying at Alert Level 2, it is illegal for an event of our scale to go ahead. While some minor changes to Level 2 were muted by government today, they did not cater for outdoor events of more than 100 people.

That this should happen for the second consecutive year is beyond prior imagination. That it happens while trying to deliver our 35th event is especially disappointing. We are runners just like you, so we know the frustration of not getting to a goal.

As per our recent updates, all entrants (including those who have already deferred) will be rolled over to the 2022 Wellington Marathon. This will include merchandise and car parking you may have purchased. As per the terms and conditions of your entry, fees are non-refundable. To date, we have spent more than \$150,000 trying to keep the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary event alive and we remain committed to delivering what you entered for. Information on your 2022 entry will follow when the date is announced.

In answer to the obvious question: We are beyond being able to postpone again to later in 2021. In such uncertain times there is too much involved in continually re-scheduling major venues, road closures, sponsors and hundreds of volunteers. E.G: Road closures alone require a 12-week application process.

We organise five events per year. Since March 2020, we have had seven postponements/cancellations,

four of which belong to the Wellington Marathon. Normally, by this time of year we are in planning for the year ahead, so our focus now is on the future and making sure that the Wellington Marathon lives to be run another day.

While the situation we all find ourselves in is no one's fault, we do thank participants for their patience in these unique times, and for the myriad of emails and messages we have received in support of what we do.

Thanks too for the ongoing support from sponsors, service providers, Wellington City Council, Sky Stadium and our own 300-strong crew. Despite their own covid woes, everyone has been right behind our efforts to try and get the Wellington Marathon to the start line.

But now to 2022. Traditionally the Wellington Marathon is held in late-June/early-July, but the exact date cannot be confirmed until Sky Stadium have their other major annual fixtures in place (e.g: Super Rugby). Typically, we can announce a date during November or December. So keep an eye on [www.wellingtonmarathon.co.nz](http://www.wellingtonmarathon.co.nz) for further updates.

In the meantime, the only way to get life and events back to some sort of normal - whatever that may be - is to individually and collectively stay on top of our Covid-19 measures. For definitive COVID-19 information and updates refer to <https://covid19.govt.nz>.