

# Pōneke Pulse

An economic pulse check for Wellington businesses from Wellington City Council

Issued for week starting 2 May 2022



## Consumer Retail + Hospo Spending

CBD:	Suburbs:
<b>+7%</b>	<b>+1%</b>

Region:  
**+7%**

Versus spend during pre-Red Light controls in Feb

**Spend has bounced back and appears to be stable at this new level**



## Transport and movements

**Car count:**  
**-2% of 2019**  
Almost back to normal

**Bus loadings:**  
**-30% of 2019**  
Compared to -15% of 2019 during 2021. Discounted fares help improve loading for 2022, but still lower than May 2021.

**Air travel:**  
Domestic flights: scheduled flights in June 2022 at the same level as 2019.

Qantas and Jetstar: international flights commence by June 2022.



## Covid-19



### On the decline

Slowly declining ... although it is more persistent than predicted

# Theme of this Report: Bounce Back

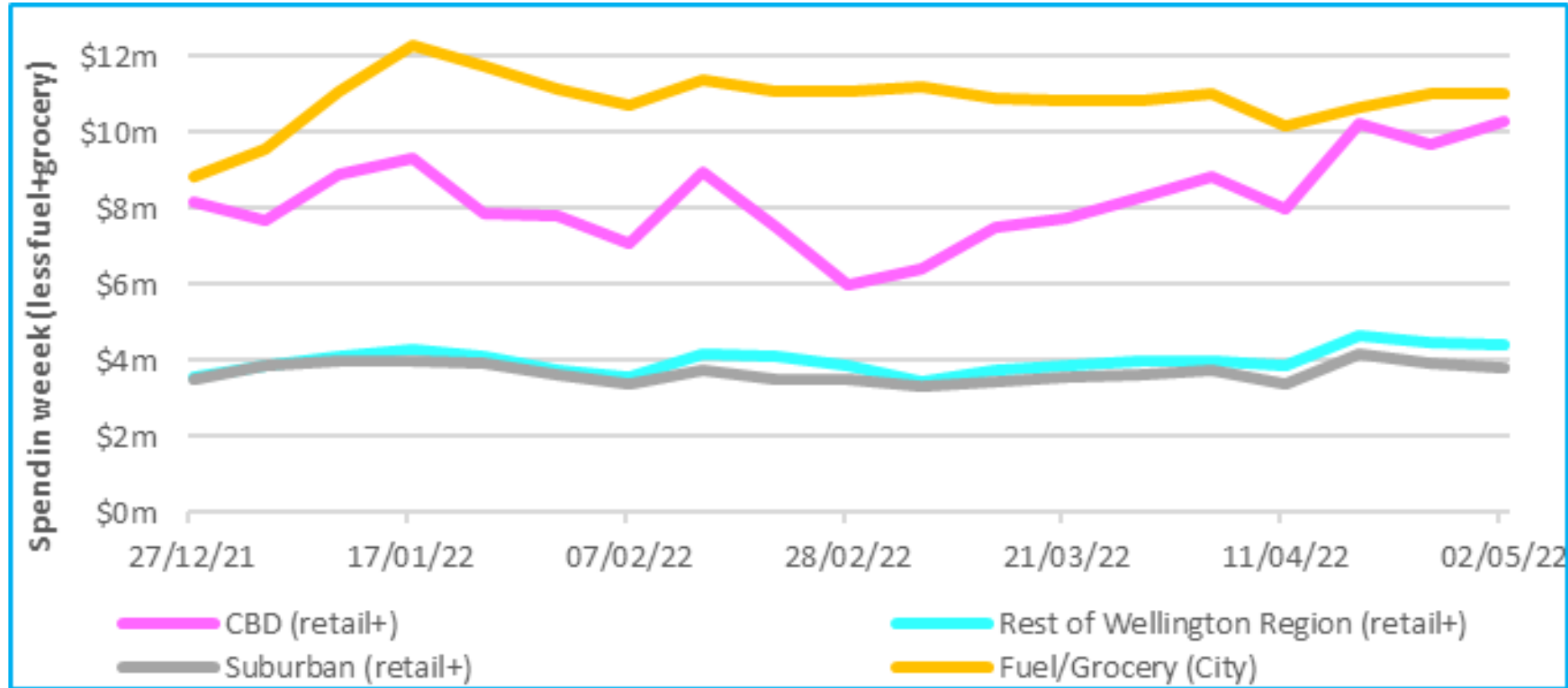
## CBD bounces back:

- Spend exceeds pre-Red Light
- Activity up
  - Workers and visitors returning
  - Low fares on public transport an incentive

## Connectivity and airport:

- Domestic seats in July forecast to be 100% of 2019
- International seats in July forecast to be 63% of 2019
- Low-carbon aviation via Wellington expected to lead the world
  - Sounds Air inaugural e-flights in 2026 (Australasian first)
  - Short-haul routes (<1.5hours) suit early adoption of low-carbon flights

# CBD health: 'bounced back'

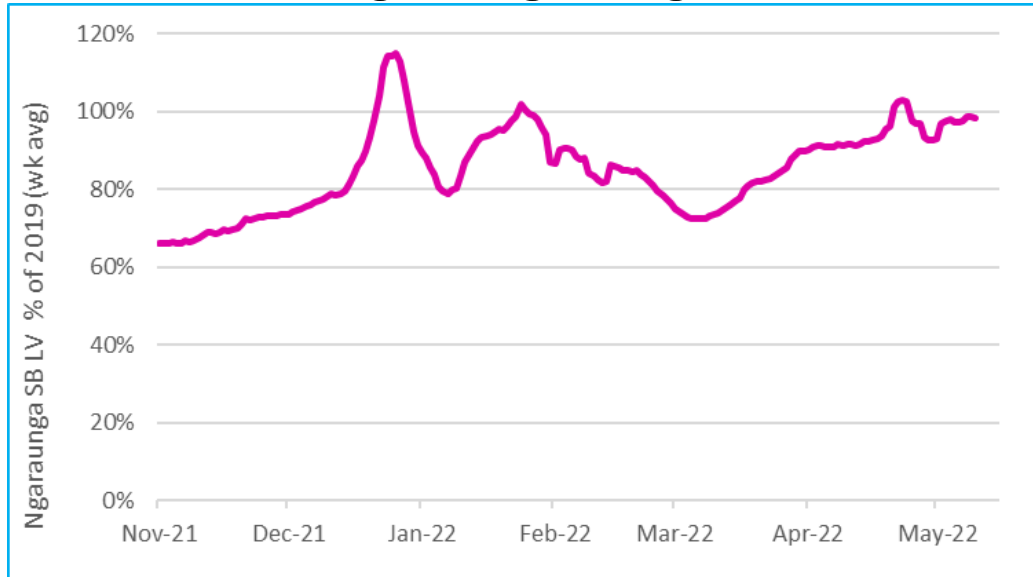


Source: AMarketView

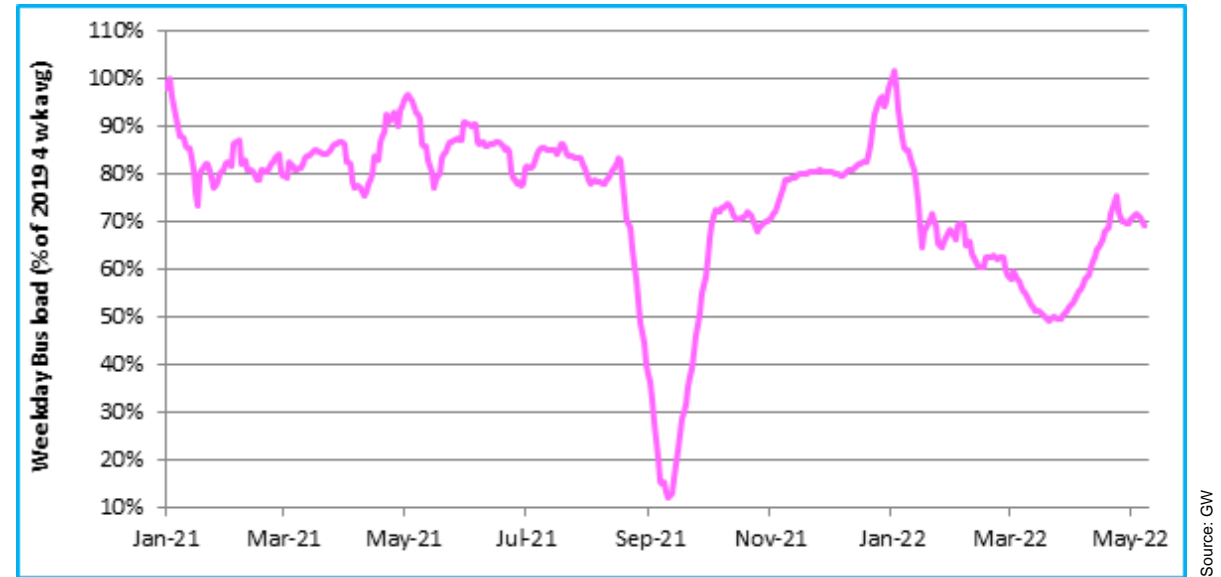
- CBD retail+ spend is now *'above where it was'* pre Red-Light
- Bounce appears to be stable

# CBD health: commuters returning

## Car counts at Ngauranga Gorge



## Bus loadings



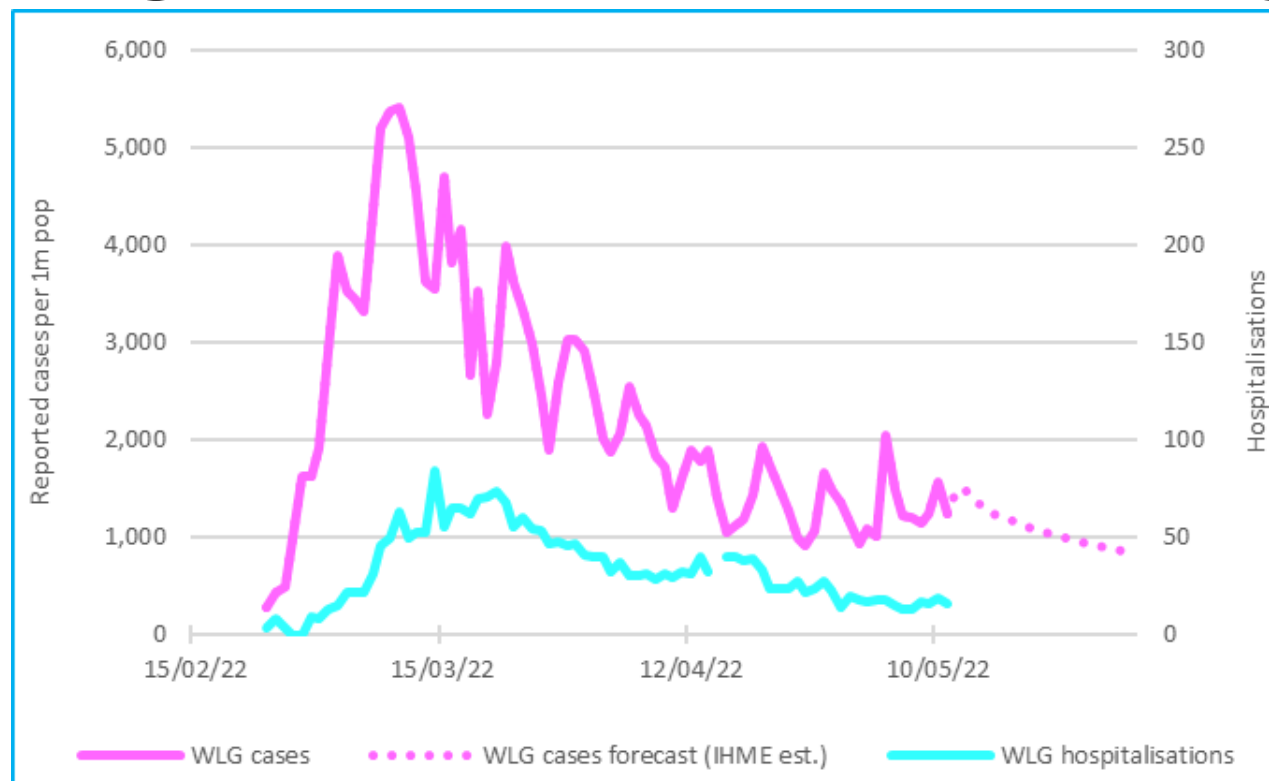
- Cars

- 98% of 2019
- Holiday weekend causing 'blip' in late Apr; i.e. people keen to travel

- Buses

- Loadings increase and appear to stabilise at 70% of 2019
- 50% fares helps BUT loadings still down, presumably due to working from home

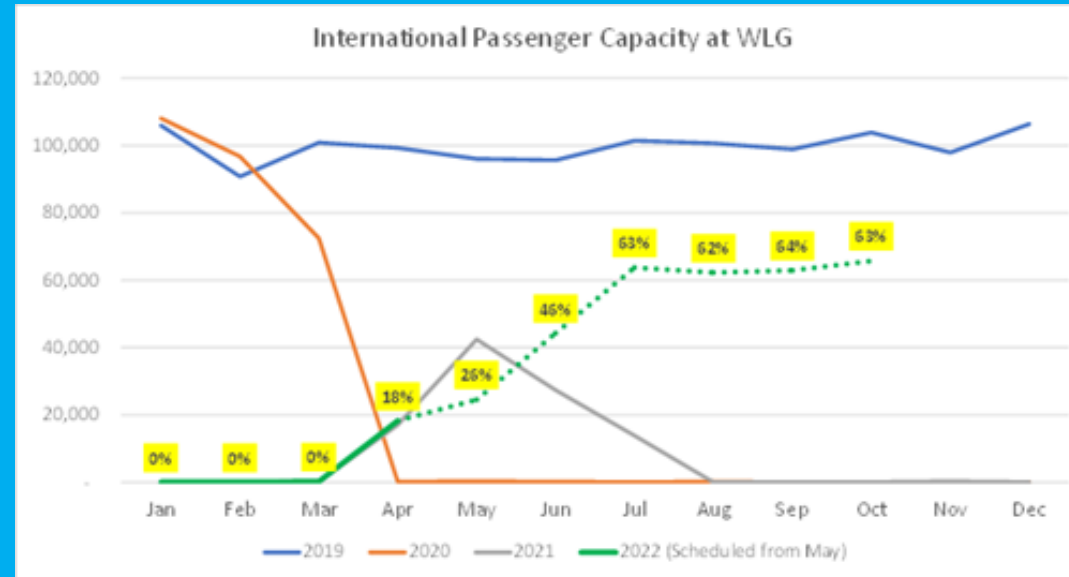
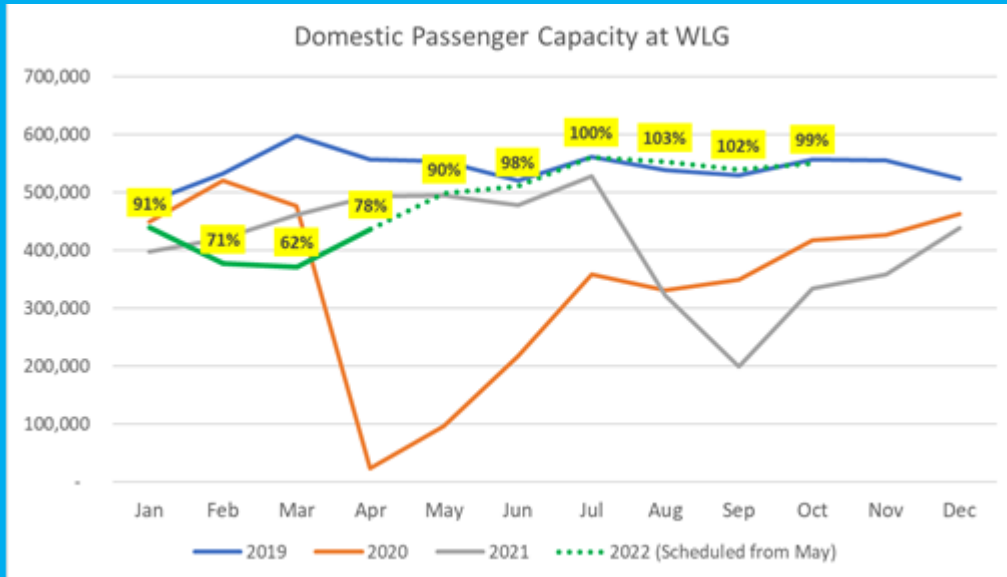
# Wellington COVID-19: subsiding slowly



Source: MoH,

- Slowly subsiding
  - But slower than predicted
  - Affected by 'isolation relaxation' and waning immunity (possibly)
- Steady with no significant resurgence
- Hospitalisations are the best measure (arguably) of the under-lying disease

# Spotlight on: Airport bounces back



Source: WIAL

- QANTAS scheduled to start on 23 May and Jetstar on 1 June
- 2022 scheduled seat capacity (see green line and 2019 %s):
  - Domestic: 98% in Jun
  - International: 63% in Jul

# Spotlight on: Airport's low-carbon aviation outlook

- SoundsAir

- 2026: 3 electric ES19 aircraft (19 seats) with 400km range
- Expected to be one of the first in Australasia



- AirNZ

- 2023-2025: 1-9 seat aircraft (electric and hybrid for trials)
- 2026-2030: 10-50 seat aircraft (electric/hybrid/hydrogen combustion)
- 2031-2035: Replace existing turboprop aircraft (Q300) as options allow (50+ seats)
- 2035+: Aircraft replaced as technology matures

- Wellington's strategic advantages

- Hub for lower North Island and upper South Island. 63% of our domestic flights are within 400km (range of the first electric aircraft)
- This places us at the global forefront of the e-aviation transition. But the airport will need to cater for growth in aircraft movements to enable this transition since e-aircraft are likely to be smaller than the aircraft they replace (until technology improves).



# Attachment 1a: Events to note

6 – 29 May	Eat Drink Play	Hospitality venues across Wgtn
23 – 26 June	Matariki	Waterfront, Te Papa, Civic Square, Te Wharewaka, various
16 July	All Blacks v Ireland	Sky Stadium
August	Wellington On a Plate	Venues across Wgtn
19 / 20 August	Beervana	Sky Stadium
August	Les Miserables	St James
29 Sep – 16 Oct	WOW	TSB Arena
29 October	Six60	Sky Stadium
October	Wellington Jazz Festival	Various
November	Music concerts	TSB Arena
8 December	Guns n Roses	Sky Stadium
December	Music concert	TSB Arena
January	New music event	Outdoors
February	New music event	Outdoors
2 February	Ed Sheeran	Sky Stadium
March	Music concert	TSB Arena

See [WellingtonNZ.com](http://WellingtonNZ.com) for a full list

# Attachment 1b: Border re-opening schedule (for vaccinated people )

- **16 May 2022**
  - Visitor visa applications open to Pacific Island Forum countries from 16 May 2022
- **4 July 2022**
  - Open to Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) holders.
  - Green list makes it easier for employers to hire and attract migrants for high-skilled, hard-to-fill positions.
  - New sector agreements to provide for short-term or ongoing need to access lower-paid migrants.
- **1 Aug 2022**
  - Open to all tourists, students and visa holders
  - Cruise ships can enter New Zealand with the opening of the maritime border.
  - Travellers will still need to meet all health requirements to enter New Zealand, including vaccination requirements and providing proof of a negative pre-departure test.
- **From September 2022**
  - Streamlined pathways to residence for migrants in green list occupations or paid twice the median wage.
- **From December 2022**
  - Most partners of temporary migrant workers will need to qualify for an Accredited Employer Work Visa in their own right, instead of automatically getting an open work visa