



A Voice for Heritage

**P O Box 12426
Thorndon
Wellington 6144**

2 November 2016

Wellington City Council
P O Box 2199
Wellington
Attn. Mr W Ulusele, Manager Urban Development

Dear Mr Ulusele,

ERSKINE COLLEGE BUILDINGS, ISLAND BAY

We understand that the future development of these buildings is currently under consideration by the Council. Historic Places Wellington wishes to advise you of its views on the future of the heritage buildings on the site.

Historic Places Wellington is an incorporated society whose objectives are the protection and conservation of historic sites and buildings in the Wellington region. We have been concerned for many years about the deteriorating state of the buildings on the Erskine site, and have advocated for their proper maintenance and preservation. We have sought discussions with the current owner although our approaches have brought a limited response only.

You will be aware that the heritage buildings on the site have Category One listed status under the Heritage New Zealand Act. These significance of the buildings will have been well represented to you by Heritage New Zealand so we will not go over that ground again here. We do, however, wish to emphasise our view that, in accordance with the Category One listing, both the former classroom block and the chapel must be retained in any redevelopment of the site. We are most concerned about the condition of these buildings which have not been maintained for many years. We urge the Council to seek an outcome, acceptable to all parties that will result in a socially valuable development with the heritage buildings as its centrepiece.

The original classroom block would seem to lend itself to conversion to apartment housing, in keeping with the site's housing designation. Looking wider, a boutique hotel could also be an attractive use.

Historic Places Wellington is aware of the complexities involved in this site. The Special Housing Area status, and the role of the Save Erskine College Trust as a Heritage Protection Authority, create challenges in bringing parties together to achieve an agreed solution. We urge the Council to use its best endeavours to reach a solution that fully respects heritage values.

Yours sincerely

John Daniels
for Peter Dowell
Chairman