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Wellington, 6144

18 June 2018

The Rt Hon. Wyatt Creech
Chair of the Board
Heritage New Zealand
PO Box 6140
Wellington, 6140

Re: Heritage Order to protect Wellington Teachers' Training College (Former)

Dear Rt Hon. Wyatt Creech

We are writing to express our deep concern about the Karori Teachers' Training College (Former).

We support current Heritage New Zealand's discussions with the owner, Ryman Healthcare, about the future of this extraordinary collection of modernist buildings. However, the recent granting of a Certificate of Compliance from the Wellington City Council to Ryman suggests to us that the demolition of at least half the site is an imminent prospect.

We believe the only mechanism that can prevent this from happening is for Heritage New Zealand to issue a Notice of Requirement for a Heritage Order over the site (as under s 189 of the Resource Management Act, 1991). We therefore ask Heritage New Zealand to pursue this action. We also ask Heritage New Zealand to encourage the Wellington City Council to list the site on the heritage schedule of the District Plan.

The issuing of the Heritage Order will provide protection until the Certificate of Compliance expires and the site is listed on the District Plan. We also believe that it will strongly encourage Ryman to seek adaptive reuse options for the site that are sympathetic to the existing heritage fabric.

The Board will be well aware of the exceptional heritage values of site. In 2005, the New Zealand Institute of Architects recognized these with an Enduring Architecture Award, calling the campus 'a testament to the robustness of the original design ... [where] there are moments of delightful poetry for those who take the time to look.'

Such an experience will not be possible if the campus is gone. Historic Places Wellington therefore asks Heritage New Zealand to take the lead in making sure future New Zealanders can also enjoy the poetry of this magnificent complex.

Yours sincerely

Felicity Wong
(Acting Chair, Historic Places Wellington)