



P O Box 12426
Thorndon
Wellington, 6144

5 March 2019

The Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister &
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Re: Former Karori Campus Partial Demolition

Dear Prime Minister

Historic Places Wellington is a registered charity promoting the protection of built heritage in the Wellington region. We have written twice to the Rt Hon Wyatt Creech, Chairman of Heritage New Zealand's Board about the former Karori Teachers' College Campus. Historic Places Wellington called for the exercise of Heritage New Zealand's legislative power to issue a protection order over the Karori campus site to ensure its protection.

We acknowledged the sustained efforts made by HNZ to negotiate a better outcome with its owner, Ryman Healthcare. But we also foresaw that negotiation without a protection order in place was unlikely to deliver the protection needed. Unfortunately, this Category I complex of modernist buildings is now being partially demolished.

We understood the financial risk to HNZ if Ryman Healthcare had demanded the compulsory acquisition of the site (plus damages) as a result of the use of a protection order. However, we noted that a protection order can also be withdrawn before the fiscal risk of compulsory acquisition crystallised. The reluctance to issue any protection orders appears to be based somewhat on reputational risk.

The protection order power was used with excellent effect to save the St James Theatre, the Public Trust Building, and even Premier House in Wellington under a previous Labour Government. Since then it has rarely been used.

Please take every available step to save the Category I Karori campus.

Yours sincerely

Felicity Wong
(Chair, Historic Places Wellington)