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Historic Places Wellington (HPW) wishes to make an oral submission, and to make the following requests:

Built Heritage Resilience

- Increase funding for Built Heritage Investment Fund. Wellington heritage buildings require funding support for earthquake strengthening. Progress has been made, but several key buildings require support: St Gerard's Monastery; Congregational Church (45 Cambridge Tce); Adelaide Hotel; and several buildings in Cuba St.
- Complete strengthening of WCC owned public buildings (Town Hall and St James Theatre).
- Begin strengthening of Central Library and Opera House. Do not sell Opera House, or Central Library. Do not fund the library project by putting a 17-storey building on top, or anything above a single extra floor.

Te Ngākau Civic Square

HPW puts those buildings at a higher priority than saving the Municipal Office Building (MOB).

Redevelop Te Ngākau Civic Square so that it is:

- a sunny space (is not overshadowed by new MOB or library buildings)
- green space with trees
- an area with weather shelter and with public art
- well lit with passive surveillance
- an area with active edges (e.g. cafes) linking with adjacent streets and with connections to the waterfront
- a public space which retains all existing public access and use rights.

Technical Built Heritage Support

Support building owners with technical information to adaptively re-use buildings. Give specific recognition to the benefits to climate of retaining old buildings and repurposing them.

Character & Heritage protection/Neighbourhood Planning/Signage

- Fund neighbourhood engagement in "place based" planning initiatives so that local communities are fully able to participate in consultation about District Plan matters; and in specific project development.

- Increase areas of character protection in heritage suburbs: Mt Victoria; Thorndon; Aro Valley; Mt Cook & Newtown/Berhampore in Draft District Plan. Establish heritage protection measures including set-backs and height limits to respect heritage buildings.
- Fund initiatives to better identify all places of heritage significance, including to Māori and to non-Māori.
- Add interpretation where a richer, more rounded story needs telling.
- Support the existing national programme of Blue Plaques within WCC signage policy.

Wellington Heritage Festival

Support an annual Wellington Heritage Festival.

Felicity Wong

Chair, Historic Places Wellington

Note:

Historic Places Wellington is a not for profit society dedicated to the preservation of historic places in the wider Wellington region. We aim to promote the identification, protection and conservation of historic places and to inform, advise and educate the public of their significance. We work cooperatively with local councils, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and other organisations concerned with the preservation of historic heritage.