



April 17, 2015

Wellington City Council
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Submission on the Wellington Urban Growth Plan

This submission is made on behalf of an organisation, **Mt Victoria Historical Society Inc.**

It is an incorporated society with the aims of researching and sharing the history of the suburb of Mt Victoria and promoting interest in, and preservation of, its unique heritage.

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1. Roads of National Significance projects

We continue to urge Wellington City Council to accept and support the decision of the Basin Bridge Board of Inquiry to decline consent for a flyover at the Basin Reserve.

The Board of Inquiry was appointed by the government and was a very robust process. It deliberated for longer than any Board has before, and declined the consent in full for the first time. This decision should be accepted, other options investigated and long-overdue remediation of the area surrounding the Basin Reserve be initiated.

Constructing a flyover in this location, as clearly explained in the Board's decision, would impact on two key outcomes in the Urban Growth Plan, namely *Identity and sense of place* and *Preserving our built heritage*.

2. Protecting and enhancing the special character of suburbs

We applaud mention of Mt Victoria along with other inner city suburbs of special character, but request that the Council adhere better to District Plan rules than it has in the

past to ensure that this is meaningful. Subdivisions contrary to the Plan have been allowed more than once in the recent past, for example.

We also support initiatives to build even greater ‘sense of place’ in Wellington.

We support the continuation and enhancement of funding assistance for earthquake strengthening of buildings, as this will contribute to retention of important buildings such as Art Deco apartment blocks, of which there are a number in Mt Victoria.

We support consideration of changes to the District Plan (pg 58) if these will increase the assurance that rules in the Plan that control infill in Mt Victoria will not be ignored.

We also support introduction of a programme for ‘warrant of fitness’ for rental properties. We would, however, like to see it compulsory. This will ensure that property investors cannot sit on properties they have paid too much for, rent sub-standard accommodation and allow historic buildings to deteriorate to the point they can claim that they are beyond repair.

3. Improve transport connections to the airport

We support this in principle, but it is essential that it be based on public transport for other than freight movements. Extensive roading proposals designed largely to accommodate increased numbers of private motor vehicles, among other detrimental effects, take land from the Town Belt and impact on the Basin Reserve. We do not approve of taking further land from the Town Belt or the proposed flyover at the Basin Reserve. Furthermore, Wellington City Council has an obligation to protect these on behalf of the citizens of Wellington.

4. Kent and Cambridge Terrace improvement plans

We support the proposal to improve the boulevard nature of Kent and Cambridge Terraces.

5. Support water-sensitive design

In the past there has been discussion of ‘daylighting’ Waitangi Stream along Kent and Cambridge Terraces. We would like to see this seriously considered in future plans for that boulevard. We would also like investigation into ‘daylighting’ one or more of the streams on Mt Victoria.