

16th August 2005

Re: Centreport Land

Dear Councillor

I am writing on behalf of the Architectural Centre, a group which represents both professional and non-professionals interested in architecture and design, and in the promotion of good design in Wellington.

We would like to express our concern about the limited safeguards which exist over the development of the port area owned by Centreport. We understand that, as long as developments on this land are less than 27m, comply with certain noise level requirements, and that the developer requires no additional access from Waterloo Quay, the development will not be subject to public scrutiny in a resource consent process.

The Centreport land is the least regulated land in the central area under the District Plan, and yet this area of Wellington is part of the northern gateway where the city is undergoing most development. It is extraordinary that the major growth area of the city is not subject to the design controls which apply to every development in all other parts of the city. It is vital that this area (approx 6 hectares) is part of an overall integrated vision for the city. The District Plan is the mechanism to ensure this.

This issue has only recently become significant. Up until now the port company, Centreport, has been operating as a port company. With the broadening of Centreport's activities into property development the District Plan needs to be altered to include this significant area of Wellington's waterfront within the normal resource consent process. We are very concerned that a private company is able to develop this area of the waterfront without the normal legal mechanisms which set expectations of quality, and allow for public input, for development in other areas of the city.

We request that you put into process a change to the District Plan to remedy this anomaly.

Yours sincerely,

Christine McCarthy
President
The Architectural Centre



the architectural centre inc.
PO Box 24178 Wellington