

8 July 2005

**Re: Proposals related to the development of Taranaki Wharf/Lambton Harbour Lagoon area**

This submission is from the Wellington 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.

**1) Support for the proposal**

The Wellington Architectural Centre gives its strong support for these three proposals. We see these developments as important in the continuing development of the Wellington waterfront as a culturally relevant and space which supports a diverse range of public activities.

**2) Proposal (1): Proposal for a new wharewaka**

The Architectural Centre strongly supports the proposal for a new wharewaka and considers this to be a productive contribution to the waterfront. This building and its associated activities will be an important and visible acknowledgement of the contemporary role and relevance of Maori culture and architecture in Wellington. Its location of the western side of the lagoon is appropriate and will not disrupt current activities or prevent pedestrian routes through the area. The ability for direct personal connection to the water's edge is particularly welcome and to be encouraged. The proposed design is innovative and contributes positively to Wellington's architecture as well as raising important debates about the possibilities of contemporary Maori architecture.

**3) Proposal (2): Proposal for a wharenuī**

The Architectural Centre strongly supports the proposal for a new wharenuī, wharekai, café and gallery complex and considers this also to be a productive contribution to the waterfront. This complex of buildings and their associated activities will be an important and visible acknowledgement of the contemporary role and relevance of Maori culture and architecture in Wellington. Their location to the north-east of the Free Ambulance building will not negatively affect any heritage values of the area and will contribute to the variety of activities along the waterfront. The proposed buildings are appropriate and will not disrupt current activities or prevent pedestrian/cycle routes through the area. The proposed design is innovative and contributes positively to Wellington's architecture as well as raising important debates about the possibilities of contemporary Maori architecture.

**4) Proposal (3): Proposal to develop, use and maintain public spaces, landscaped areas and associated structures at Taranaki Street Wharf**

The Architectural Centre strongly supports the proposal to develop, use and maintain public spaces, landscaped areas and associated structures at Taranaki Street Wharf. It is critical that this area, and other areas of the waterfront are continually upgraded and maintained, and we see this proposal as critical to the ongoing feasibility of the area. Several of these activities are necessary for the construction of the above proposals (Proposal (1) new wharewaka and Proposal (2) new wharenuī, wharekai, café and



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gallery complex) and so are important to proceed. These works will facilitate public access and use of the area and therefore are important to support.

**5) Conclusion**

We see these developments as productive contributions to the ongoing development and shaping of the waterfront.

Yours sincerely

Christine McCarthy  
President  
The Architectural Centre