

24 November 2017

Mayor and Councillors
Wellington City Council
P.O. Box 2199
Wellington 6140
mayor@wcc.govt.nz
councillors@wcc.govt.nz

Re: Trolley Overheads

This letter is from the Architectural Centre an incorporated society dating from 1946, which represents both professionals and non-professionals interested in the promotion of good design.

We, like many Wellingtonians are exceptionally concerned about the death of the city's trolley buses because this is a retrograde step in relation to stated council aims to achieve better outcomes for the environment and noise. We appreciate that this was a GWRC decision, and we understand that many WCC councillors do not support the loss of the trolley buses.

While the trolleys are gone from Wellington streets for the current moment, what happens to the trolley infrastructure now is within the power of the WCC as owners of the overheads. We believe that retaining the overhead wire infrastructure will act as a prudent insurance prior to having truly tested the validity of the proposed replacement. We have the following comments to make:

1. We anticipate that the proposed replacement buses will likely cause a number of difficulties, and may well be significantly less effective than the trolleys. For example, we understand that the current proposal will see Wellington get 10 battery double decker buses that will need to spend hours off the road each day being recharged. This is not an efficient use of vehicles costing \$1.2 million each. Overseas the next generation of trolley buses recharge while they are operating under the wires. In addition, they can run 50 or so kms off the wires. The poles are detached and re-attached by the driver without leaving his/her seat. This is the system that we believe Wellington ought to have adopted with new and existing buses modified in the interim. Given this, we anticipate that the best options in the long term may still require overhead infrastructure.
2. We also understand that the current plans for battery buses are nowhere near as energy-efficient as our existing trolleys. If the new buses prove to be inefficient, and/or unable to perform adequately in Wellington's steep hill topography, we need to ensure that the city has alternatives which are 100% electric.

For the above reasons, we strongly believe that it is important that WCC keep the overheads and maintain them until a better system is proven and built. Please put

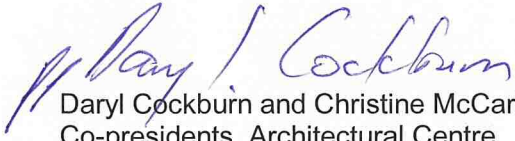


the architectural centre inc.
PO Box 24178 Wellington

your considerable influence behind the move to stop the demolition of Council's (Cable Car Ltd) overheads.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daryl Cockburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daryl Cockburn and Christine McCarthy
Co-presidents, Architectural Centre
arch@architecture.org.nz

cc. Julieanna Genter, Associate Minister of Transport
(julianne.genter@parliament.govt.nz)