

14 June 2011

Re: 3 Main Rd Tawa: Service Request Number: 231584

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. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this proposal.

The Architectural Centre opposes the construction of a supermarket on the 3 Main Road site in Tawa.

Tawa is a small suburban township area that is already home to an undistinguished collection of shops and is currently trying to build up more of a sense of community in the Tawa shopping area. We support Wellington City Council's efforts to make Tawa more relevant, and more concentrated in terms of walkability and as a focus of community.

Tawa's retail centre is already partially compromised by the existing bulk discount shops south of the main town centre. The construction of further bulk shopping formats such as a large supermarket would undoubtedly damage the existing retail centre, and shift the vehicular emphasis of the town further out of town.

We do not believe that the continuing stretching out of the Tawa shopping area into a linear format, encouraging and mandating the use of automobile-only access, is a matter that is good for the suburb of Tawa, nor for the greater Wellington region as a whole. The visibility of the supermarket site from the nearby motorway is only going to despoil and commercialise the currently largely rural outlook from the motorway. The continued suburban sprawl / bulk retail sprawl is unwelcome and unnecessary. We oppose the building of such a large building, and the associated car parking area.

We request that this application for a supermarket be declined.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on this resource consent application. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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