



18 May 2012

**Re: WCC Eco-City Proposal for Wellington's Natural Attractions**

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 does not support the WCC's Eco-City Proposal.

1. We strongly support the work of the not-for-profit Karori Sanctuary Trust in their running of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (Zealandia). The Sanctuary provides a significant contribution to the sustainability of our city in terms of biodiversity, eco-tourism and diversity in our urban fabric. We see the Sanctuary as an important part of Wellington's civic environment, which supplements the built environment.
2. We do not support any of the four proposals put forward by the Council, but we do support the Council's aim to provide funding for the Wildlife Sanctuary to ensure the long-term viability of this ecologically important asset in our city.
3. We consider that the current organisation, volunteer structure, and community ownership are important parts of the ethos of the Sanctuary, and note that currently the council has significant input into the Sanctuary Trust through its appointment of three Trustees, and its right to appoint the Chair of the Trust.
4. We support Council contributions of \$700,000pa to the Sanctuary for the next three years (i.e. \$2.1 million), and see this as economically more sensible than spending an additional \$1.34 million over three years (as proposed in the draft Long Term Plan) to set up and run a new umbrella organisation to contain the Sanctuary. We note that currently the Council funds Wellington Zoo at a much higher rate than that proposed for by the Sanctuary (\$2.9 million pa c.f. \$700,000 pa) especially when it is understood that the zoo attracts only twice the visitor numbers.
5. We encourage the WCC to ensure that the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary becomes more financially viable but we see this as a different issue to the governance of the Sanctuary as it appears to us that Council has sufficient input into governance under the current model, and that it does not appear that the financial issues are primarily caused by the governance structure.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on this Eco-City Proposal. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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