

21 February 2018

Our City Tomorrow
Tō Tātou Taone o Āpōpō
Wellington City Council
P.O. Box 2199
Wellington 6140
info@wcc.govt.nz

Re: Our City Tomorrow/ Tō Tātou Taone o Āpōpō submission

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

We have a number of concerns to raise regarding the "Our City Tomorrow" consultation. We cannot understand how this can be proposed as genuine consultation by the WCC for the following reasons:

- (a) the survey lacks adequate supporting background material to enable informed participation, including:
 - (i) a lack of quantification (e.g. how many are "more homes"? how many "subsidised cultural events" are proposed), or
 - (ii) a lack of definitions to properly convey the meaning of what is being asked (e.g. how is a "green building" defined? Does this mean net-zero carbon buildings?; how is the "central city" defined? just the CBD? how are the "areas close to the coast" defined - all of the CBD?)
- (b) there is no indication of the consequences or trade-offs of a particular answer, which is important as the prioritisation, or the stated consequences, are vague (e.g. what are the "other projects" which can't go ahead if money is spent on earthquake strengthening?)
- (c) depending on the interpretation of many of the questions, people with the same view could give contradictory answers
- (d) the language is ambiguous (e.g. does "different transport options" mean different options to the ones we have (e.g. hovercraft, space rockets, horse and cart)? or a range of options? Does it include unsustainable modes?)
- (e) the leading statements tend to set the questions up to encourage one answer (usually supporting the second statement) to seem more reasonable than the other.

For these reasons, we consider that this survey is not a valid one and that there is no way that any reliable information regarding citizens' views can legitimately be argued to be gained from this questionnaire. Instead the agenda behind the questionnaire appears to be to provide "evidence" to support items that the council has already decided to prioritise.

For this reason, while we would be interested to know what the public thinks about many of the topics, we ask that the WCC:



the architectural centre inc.
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1. does not waste any money trying to analyse what is fundamentally not able to be analysed
2. commission a proper survey designed by properly qualified people on these topics

We would also like to confirm our support for: residential densification, net-zero emission buildings, sustainable and active modes of transport, including light rail, and strategies for managed retreat from high hazard zones locations with prohibitions on new building in these areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the "Our City Tomorrow" consultation.

Yours faithfully



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