

18 September 2018

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment  
P.O. Box 10-241  
Wellington 6143  
New Zealand  
pce@pce.parliament.nz

Re: Heritage New Zealand's action/inaction regarding protecting Category I site the Wellington Teachers Training College (Former), Karori

Tēnā koe Commissioner

1. We write in relation to our letter of 5 September 2018, regarding our concerns about Heritage NZ's lack of action in relation to the Category I listed Wellington Teachers Training College, Karori.
2. Since our letter we have received correspondence from Heritage NZ (see attached), in response to our urging them to take action, that suggests to us that:
  - (a) Heritage NZ is relying on the agreement of the property developer (Ryman Healthcare) - rather than an independent or objective assessment of heritage values and significance (e.g. the Heritage NZ WTTTC report which addresses the Heritage NZ Act s66 criteria) - to guide the scope of their heritage protection. We understand this from Heritage NZ's statement that they are aiming "to protect as much of the historic fabric of the College as *can be achieved with their [Ryman's] agreement*" and "The level of loss [of the College's heritage significance] *has not yet been agreed* [with Ryman]."
  - (b) Heritage NZ do not consider there to be an imminent risk to the site, despite Ryman having applied for a building consent to demolish half of the Category I historic place. We understand this from Heritage NZ's statement that they do not "believe that they [Ryman] will act unilaterally in the meantime."
3. We attach our letter which the Heritage NZ email responded to.

Nāku iti noa, nā

  
Christine McCarthy  
President, Architectural Centre



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