



## MP for Mt Albert

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

**0 6 NOV 2018**

Christine McCarthy  
President, Architectural Centre  
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Tēnā koe Christine

Thank you for your letters of 5 September and 18 October, and the open letter from you and others of 24 October regarding the developments at the former Wellington Teachers' Training College in Karori.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is in regular and constructive dialogue with Ryman Healthcare on developments for the site, and current plans for the site include the retention and adaptation of several buildings. Heritage New Zealand is committed to working towards a negotiated outcome that would preserve several of the significant buildings on the site. Heritage New Zealand does recognise that there will be loss of heritage fabric as a result of the redevelopment, and is aware that demolition work is scheduled to begin in eight to twelve weeks. I have asked that officials at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage keep me well informed of any developments at the site.

Like you, I believe the situation in Karori has demonstrated vulnerabilities within our heritage system. Our current policies and processes for identifying and protecting heritage buildings can be improved. We can also improve the ways in which we communicate the values of safeguarding our heritage, and support a more positive culture around heritage stewardship. I understand you have spoken to my officials at the Ministry about how the heritage system can be strengthened, and I look forward to progressing this work as the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, working with organisations such as the Architectural Centre.

I also note your request to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, and I have asked officials to keep me updated as this progresses.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns with me. I appreciate your ongoing advocacy for quality urban environments and your commitment to recognising our built heritage.

Nāku noa, nā

A blue ink signature of Jacinda Ardern, written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
**Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage**