

Petition: Officers' Response

Title: Ensure that Erskine College & Chapel are saved from demolition, earthquake strengthened and restored.

Primary Petitioner: Steven Buck, Wellington
Total Signatures: 1063 (via ePetition)

Presented by: Steven Buck
Contact officer: Neville Brown, Programme Director, Earthquake Resilience.
Director responsible: Greg Orchard, Director Property & Housing.

Officers' recommendation:

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the petition and refer to it to Officers to inform their work with the Property Owner.*

Background:

The ePetition "Ensure that Erskine College & Chapel are saved from demolition, earthquake strengthened and restored" was initiated by Steven Buck on 29 May 2012 and closed on 29 July 2012.

The purpose of the petition is to request that the Council do all that it can to earthquake strengthen and restore Erskine College and Chapel.

The petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website. It received 1063 signatures.

Officers' response:

The Erskine College site is owned by the Wellington Company Ltd.

It was declared an Earthquake Prone Building in June 1999. A Red Notice was issued on 16 April 2012 and expires on 16 October 2012. This effectively means that the building cannot be occupied or used for any purpose until strengthened or demolished.

The owner has developed plans for the economic reuse of the site, which includes retaining key heritage elements and allowing public use of the main chapel. The Council is actively engaging with the owner to facilitate a solution that meets our requirements under our Earthquake Prone Policy and the Building Act.

A Heritage Protection Order was awarded by legislation in 1992 to Save Erskine College Trust Inc. This in effect means they are the heritage protection authority for the purpose of protecting the buildings and grounds (including the Chapel building) of the former Erskine College in Island Bay, Wellington.

The Council is encouraging both parties to agree a viable development that will ensure protection of key heritage elements.