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## PETITION: SAVE MT VICTORIA'S HERITAGE

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### Summary

Primary Petitioner: Joanna Newman  
Total Signatures: 798

Presented by: Joanna Newman

### Recommendation

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. Receive the information and thank the petitioner.

### Background

1. Wellington City Council operates a system of petitions whereby people can petition the Council on matters related to Council business.
2. The action the petition asks for is as follows:

*We the undersigned Mt Victoria residents, call on WCC Councillors and Mayor to **reject the Spatial Plan proposal and retain the pre-1930s demolition rule for all of Mount Victoria.***

3. The summary and background information provided for the petition was:

**WCC proposes removing the pre-1930s restricted\* demolition rule for Mt Vic houses outside new character sub-areas, refer to "Character area – Mount Victoria" Map & allow a range of 4-6 storey buildings.**

- *This rule was established to help protect the character of the suburb because it was seen as important to the heritage of Wellington.*
- *Mt Victoria demonstrates historical patterns of development and conveys a sense of community and collective memory for the whole city.*
- *A key part of the identity of Wellington and of what makes it a great city would be lost if the unique character of Mt Victoria is not protected.*

\*Note the rule restricts but does not ban demolition and therefore encourages retention and renovation.

4. The petition was submitted on 29 October 2020 with 798 signatures. The list of signatures is presented as Attachment 1.
5. The petition has had addresses and emails redacted to preserve the privacy of signatories. The majority of signatories were from Mount Victoria.

### Officers' response

Engagement on the Draft Spatial Plan

1. Public engagement on the Draft *Our City Tomorrow – a Spatial Plan for the City* (Draft Spatial Plan) commenced on 8 August 2020 and closed 5 October 2020. A total of 2898 submissions were received over this 8-week period. During this period, we also conducted 20 engagement events including Tiny House/Library pop-ups, a combined Residents' and Community Association workshop and Stakeholder presentations e.g. BIDs, planning practitioners, surveyors, architects.
2. Five separate engagement forums for submitters to present their submissions have taken place throughout November, with the final forum concluding 1 December 2021.
3. This petition was received after the close of submissions and must therefore be addressed separately.

#### Reason for Petition

4. The current District Plan contains a rule which protects pre-1930s dwellings in the inner residential areas from demolition and significant additions and alterations. These areas are Mt Victoria, Thorndon, Mt Cook, parts of the Terrace, Aro Valley, Newtown and Berhampore.
5. The Draft Spatial Plan signals a proposed change that would retain the current pre-1930s control over 'sub-areas' where there are clusters of dwellings with high streetscape values. The remaining areas would not have a presumption against demolition, with additional building heights enabled.
6. This petition opposes this change as it relates to Mt Victoria.
7. This petition will be considered alongside all the submissions received on the Draft Spatial Plan when it is finalised in March 2021.

#### Timeframes

8. A non-statutory Draft District Plan will be released in July 2021. This will include a targeted public consultation process with an opportunity for the public to make submissions and be heard by councillors.
9. A proposed (statutory) District Plan will be notified in May 2022. This will be the formal submission and hearing process required under the Resource Management Act 1991.
10. All these stages will consider the appropriate balance between enabling more housing and housing choice in Mt Victoria and other areas, alongside managing impacts on the existing and future character of Mt Victoria.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1. Petition

Author	John McSweeney, Place Planning Manager
Authoriser	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning Liam Hodgetts, Chief Planning Officer

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Engagement and Consultation**

Engagement has been undertaken as part of the Draft Spatial Plan from 10 August to 5 October 2020. This was received after this submission closed on 29 October 2020.

### **Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

Not applicable

### **Financial implications**

Not applicable

### **Policy and legislative implications**

Not applicable

### **Risks / legal**

Not applicable

### **Climate Change impact and considerations**

Not applicable

### **Communications Plan**

Not applicable

### **Health and Safety Impact considered**

Not applicable