

22 November 2012

1. Chair and members of the Committee
2. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today
3. My name is Philip Crampton
4. I made a written submission number 71 in support of the draft North Kumutoto design brief.
5. In that submission I stated my belief that the development of buildings at the designated sites at north Kumutoto should be encouraged by Council.
6. I also stated that in my view some flexibility to the proposed building envelopes should be retained so that building proposals that were truly outstanding in design, use or overall benefit to the waterfront would not be rendered impossible
7. My written submission was made in my capacity as a ratepayer, as a regular waterfront user, both individually and with my children more than 20 years, and as a longstanding proponent of a centre for citizen education that I would like to see located in a new building at north Kumutoto
8. Today I would like to briefly explain:
 - the purpose of such centre,
 - the benefits it would provide, and most importantly to your decision today
 - why its location in a building at North Kumutoto is so important to its success.
9. You will all be aware that in western democracies there is a trend toward declining levels of participation amongst younger people. This is evident in much ways
 - dwindling voter turnout
 - apathy toward participation in boards committees and other democratic groups at all levels of society.
10. Many young people show no connection with the immediate community and even less with the country of which they are a citizen.
11. The most obvious solution is to include citizenship education more prominently in school curricula.
12. Central to citizenship education is the opportunity for children to experience the institutions that lie at the centre of their democracy and government, which are of course found in Wellington.

13. For more than 10 years I and others have been working to establish a national centre that will make hands on citizenship education experiences accessible to school children from all parts of New Zealand
14. We expect to bring an additional 15000 children to Wellington each year. While in Wellington many will also take the opportunity to visit Zealandia, Carter Observatory, the Zoo, Te Papa and other local museums.
15. These young visitors will be leave with a lasting positive impression, and significant numbers are likely to return to Wellington as young adults to live, to study or to work.
16. So why is a North Kumutoto location so important to the success of a national centre for citizenship education? It's all to do with accessibility and visibility.
17. A building at North Kumutoto would place the centre midway between Parliament and Te Papa, and with easy and safe walking distance to both. Equally important it is within easy walking distance of ferry, bus and rail terminals that many of our school groups will use to come and go. And North Kumutoto will make the centre and its work highly visible to all.
18. So my message to committee members today is quite simple;
 - firstly your adoption of the North Kumutoto design brief today, including its provision for buildings on sites 9 and 10 is an important step in enabling a truly successful national centre for citizenship education, and secondly;
 - the addition of the centre in a building at north Kumutoto will contribute far more to Wellington and to the whole of New Zealand than more open space that a vocal minority might prefer.

Thank you

A National Centre for Citizenship Education

Involving young New Zealanders in democracy

The Idea

A National Centre for Citizenship Education will provide positive experiences in civic participation and boost young people's interest in becoming active citizens of New Zealand throughout their adult lives.

The Centre will support the delivery of effective citizenship education by:

- encouraging more schools to visit our nation's capital city
- facilitating positive, curriculum focused education programmes for school groups while in Wellington.

The Centre will also provide teaching facilities, interactive displays, curriculum linked teaching resources, and other facilities and programmes to increase the effectiveness of citizenship education.

The Centre will make citizenship education **fun, interactive, relevant, memorable**

Space Requirements

Approximately 200 square metres on the wharf level of the



Benefits for Wellington -

The National Centre for Citizenship Education will benefit Wellington by increasing the number of young people who acquire interest in and enthusiasm for Wellington as a result of their citizenship education visits.

and New Zealand!

The National Centre for Citizenship Education will benefit all of New Zealand by strengthening our democracy and increasing participation at all levels.

"The concept fits very well into the Electoral Commission's strategy of encouraging greater knowledge and participation in our democracy, especially by young people."

David Henry - Commissioner and Chief Executive, Electoral Commission

The Reason

The most basic, defining, democratic right and responsibility of citizenship is to vote in elections. Without a voting citizenry there is no democracy.

Election turnout and other forms of participation are in decline in New Zealand, particularly amongst young people. Statistics suggest that the non-participation of the young is now both higher and lasting for longer.

Research suggests that young people increasingly feel disconnected from the wider society, and some are proud of being outside and against the mainstream.

To increase participation in the future, young people need to acquire a desire to participate before they leave school. Otherwise ... the current trends of non-participation will continue.

Source: Citizenship: learning by doing, children and young people as citizens: Participation, provision and protection, 6th Child and Family Policy Conference University of Otago, Dunedin, July 2005

The Funding

Operating cost for the Centre will be relatively low. It is expected that central government funding (for example the Ministry of Education's 'Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom' programme) would partially fund the Centre.

"...I do appreciate the importance of citizenship education. The vision of The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) states that we want our young people to be confident, connected, and actively involved in local, national and global communities"

Anne Tolley, Minister of Education.

The Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom (LEOTC) Project provides support for quality teaching and learning experiences for primary and secondary students enrolled in state, integrated and registered private schools. LEOTC programmes are hands-on and interactive, and enhance and enrich the curriculum in keeping with the New Zealand Curriculum Framework.

Learning experiences provided via this project complement students' in-school learning and provide experiences which could not be made available in the immediate school environment.

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