



Submission of Civic Trust Auckland

Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan

8 August 2011

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We wish to speak in support of our submission at a public hearing.

Introduction

Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region.

The aims of the Trust include:

- Protection of natural landforms
- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects
- Encouragement of good planning, for the city and region.

CTA has submitted on “Auckland Unleashed”, the 2011 Annual Plan, the City Centre Masterplan and has made a submission on all the local board draft plans, the latter having many references to the Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan, both directly and indirectly.

CTA agrees with the priorities proposed in the draft local board plan. We support strongly the philosophies that underpin the document.

A Distinctive, High Quality Built Environment that Embraces its Heritage

(1) CTA is pleased to see that embracing built heritage is one of the priorities of this board, as Waitematā encompasses so much of Auckland's historic heritage and is also an area that needs to cope with intense development pressures.

(2) The project to identify city centre heritage and special character commercial buildings should involve finding out what research already exists and striving for the combination of all known heritage information into an integrated database.

(3) Whatever happens on the Soho Square site, be it the development planned or an alternative development, urban design principles need to be applied that recognise the fine-grained nature of the Ponsonby ridge area. It is apparent from the recent history of this site that the Ponsonby plan is an ineffective planning document.

(4) The "Cloud" should be removed from Queen's Wharf as soon as practicable and given to Christchurch. Shed 11 should be re-erected on the wharf as part of the integrated development, in conjunction with Shed 10.

Connected, Healthy Transport Options

(5) CTA supports the emphasis on walking and cycling and the desire to make both of these options easier and safer. We are pleased to see that there are some easy to implement changes proposed.

(6) We support making Queen St a car-free pedestrian boulevard on Sundays and propose 11 December 2011 as a trial, this date being a Christmas shopping day.

(7) We look forward to the implementation of two-way cycling on one-way streets, particularly in the city centre on such streets as Lorne St, High St and Jean Batten Place.

(8) Further developments to enhance the cyclist / pedestrian experience we would like to see include:

- more barn dance style crossings
- pedestrian crossings on all four streets at intersections (needed at the Hobson St / Cook St intersection, for example)
- more seating along streets
- awnings for more rain shelter along key pedestrian streets such as High St
- an investigation into how well combined bus and cycle lanes work
- more streets with 30kph speed limits
- cycle access from Customs St through to Quay St, where currently only buses are permitted, or allowing cycles to share the footpath with pedestrians in this location
- cycle access from Mayoral Drive down Wellesley St to Queen St, where currently only buses are permitted
- a cyclepath in the Auckland Domain (as proposed by the Auckland Museum).

(9) CTA is a strong supporter of expanded ferry services to many different parts of the city and feels that the Waitematā draft plan needs to give more consideration to this transport option.

(10) We support the “comeback” of trams and would like to see them travel further afield than the Wynyard Quarter, to Britomart in the first instance.

(11) CTA would like to see an analysis of the physical stock of carparking in the city and an exploration of ways in which any growth in usage could be accommodated by sharing of existing carparks (i.e. commercial spaces available after hours).

(12) We would also like to see consideration given to carpark design in terms of being designed with such dimensions that they can be converted to apartments in the future or to some other use. Design and construction of all buildings should give thought to future ability accommodate different future uses.

Strong, Vibrant, Engaged Communities

(13) We would like to see support for public art projects to include more permanent public art in such places as Darby St, by artists from the local area.

(14) We encourage the board’s careful resource use, resource recovery and recycling and strongly support exploring developing a resource recovery centre.

(15) We support programmes currently exist to reduce the use of plastic bags.

(16) We support programmes to reduce emissions.

Places for People

(17) CTA would like consideration given to transforming the disused old Nelson St motorway off-ramp into a walkway / cycleway, with planting along its edges.

(18) We advocate for public showers in all local board areas and suggest that in Waitematā one possible location is adjacent to the new toilets in Wellesley St by the Bledisloe Building.

(19) We are aware that inner city residents would like to see more books brought up from the basement of the central library and placed in the borrowing areas. Borrowers need to be able to browse amongst books.

(20) We would like to see reinstatement of the petanque playing area in Victoria Park or have it reinstated in the Wynyard Quarter.

(21) The Waitematā Local Board could advocate for rates reduction, at least in the start-up phase, to encourage interesting, diverse small businesses in the inner city which support a quality retail district, and we encourage the board to engage in the issue of what constitutes a viable retail offering (i.e. more than Two Dollar shops).

(22) CTA advocates for smoke free parks and public open spaces and would like to see a number of public open spaces in each local board area designated as smokefree,

voluntarily smokefree in the first instance. In Waitematā one of these could be St Patrick's Square. We would like to see *new* public spaces designated as smokefree.

(23) In the interests of improving people's experience of public spaces, CTA advocates for the replacing of all Council leaf blowers with brooms and the gradual replacing of noisy buses with quieter vehicles.

(24) We support attractive higher density housing in locations such as the old Lion Breweries site as long as there are sufficient options within the inner city for families and those on lower incomes.

(25) We note the importance of the St James Theatre in the spatial plan and encourage the board to advocate for its restoration and reuse. We would also encourage the board to address the issue of demolition by neglect which has been so clearly raised by the St James Theatre and the Yates Buildings.

A World-Class City Centre

(26) We support the Waitematā Local Board's aspiration to become a world-class city centre.

Respecting and Enhancing Natural Environments

(27) CTA believes that Albert Park should "continue to be held ... as ground for recreation and amusement" (as stated in the Auckland Improvement Trust Act 1971), meaning it should not be built on.

(28) Views of significant parts of the landscape need protecting, particularly the volcanic cones and the harbour.

Date of submission: 8 August 2011

Signature:



Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland