

Questions:

1. Matters concerning heritage buildings is a heated topic in Wellington's media. What is your position on heritage buildings in Wellington?

Wellington's heritage buildings are to be valued and preserved for the future.

2. With the high demand for housing and development in Wellington, what is your position on those developments which risk the demolition of heritage buildings?

I'm not aware of any new developments threatening the demolition of heritage buildings. New developments should complement rather than replace heritage buildings.

The biggest issue we have as in Wellington is where existing owners of heritage buildings are struggling financially to find the funds for earthquake strengthening. To support them Wellington City Council has consistently increased Council's Built Heritage Fund, which helps owners strengthen, preserve and restore heritage buildings. I support the future funding of the built heritage fund and working with owners to enable them to retain Wellington's heritage.

The overwhelming majority of landlords are getting on with strengthening their buildings.

3. Do you support strengthening of the Town Hall to a satisfactory level of earthquake prevention and working towards an urgent opening of this important amenity?

Yes, absolutely. My focus is to restore the Town Hall and to ensure it remains a venue for public performances. I would like to see it as a permanent home for the New Zealand Symphony of Orchestra and Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music.

4. Do you support maintaining or increasing the Wellington City Council Built Heritage Fund

I have supported increasing the fund and believe we will need to increase the fund further when the time limits of buildings requiring earthquake strengthening peaks between 2022 and 2025.

5. What is your vision for historic places' role in Wellington's future?

I think Wellington's future should also be informed by its past. Our history is an important component of what makes Wellington great and needs to be preserved where possible.

The majority of heritage building owners have commenced strengthening programmes and Wellington City Council is committed to doing the same with its portfolio. There will be complex situations, but in my experience solutions have been able to be found. We've seen examples like The Woolstore on Thorndon Quay, St Marys of the Angels and the Huddart Parker Building, where owners of heritage buildings have taken a long term view and invested in the city's heritage to preserve it for the future.

I want to help them as best I can.

Regards

Justin