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*A Voice for Heritage*

Hon Ron Mark  
Minister of Defence  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

6 August 2018

**LISTED HERITAGE BUILDING, BUCKLE ST, WELLINGTON**

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of Historic Places Wellington (HPW) which is a registered charity promoting the identification, protection and conservation of historic places in the Wellington region for the benefit of communities and the general public. This letter is prompted by the recent news that the Great War exhibition in Buckle St will be closing at the end of the year.

We have written previously to your predecessors about a heritage building of great concern to us which falls within the Defence portfolio. It is the former General Headquarters (GHQ) Building on the corner of Buckle and Taranaki Streets which holds Category 2 status on the New Zealand Heritage List. It is the last remaining military heritage building on the Mount Cook site and has a rich history especially through its associations with WW1 and with the waterfront riots of 1913. It has significant architectural value as an Edwardian baroque military structure and adds immeasurably to the Pukeahu Memorial Park landscape as it "bookends" Buckle St, complementing the restored former police station on the corner of Tory Street. Because of the cosmetic improvements made to the building before the opening of Pukeahu the public are able to appreciate the contribution this attractive and important heritage building makes to the area around Pukeahu. It has also been featured in the booklet entitled "World War 1 Heritage Trail: Wellington's Parades and Places" published by the Wellington City Council in conjunction with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

The GHQ building has been closed for some years as it is earthquake-prone and its future remains unknown. This is a matter of concern not only to our organisation but also other community groups. We believe that if it is strengthened it will make a significant and useful contribution to the Memorial Park and to New Zealand's military history. As it was built in 1911 in anticipation of a possible world war, one highly appropriate use for it would be as a small museum housing some of the best items from the Great War exhibition.

I am sending a copy of this letter also to the Prime Minister and to the Hon Grant Robertson because of their portfolio responsibilities for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Yours sincerely

cc: The Prime Minister  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Heritage New Zealand

Priscilla Williams

Chairman, Historic Places Wellington