

Performing Arts Precinct Land sale – analysis of submissions

Overview

Consultation on the Performing Arts Precinct Land sale was open from 17 November to 13 December 2021, we received 257 submissions.

We ran a targeted consultation with the 339 stakeholders we had from the previous engagements on the Performing Arts Precinct.

On 17 November 2021, Newsline ran a story on the consultation and within this stated if the sale was to go ahead, we would sell it to Wilsons Parking.

Analysis of feedback

We asked if people were supportive of the Council selling the land in the Performing Arts Precinct (Gloucester Street/Colombo Street) and provided the opportunity for them to comment.

Option	Nos.
Support	38
Do not support	219

In support

The selling of the land for a carpark was supported by 38 submissions, with 34 submissions also providing comments.

- 19 submissions supported the parking building with no concerns.
- 15 supported the land sale and car park, but had concerns:
 - Eight submissions wanted to see the façade tie in with the other buildings in the vicinity with architecture similar to the Lichfield Street parking building.
 - Seven submissions wanted to see a parking building here, but they did not want Wilsons to run it with four of these submissions wanting the building to be either New Zealand or Council owned.
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“It's difficult to access Turanga and businesses in New Regent Street due to parking issues. A multi store car park will lead to increase in patronage of hospo outlets in the area and Turanga.”

Not in support

219 people indicated that they did not support Council selling the land for a car park, with 209 people providing comments.

Of the 209 people who commented, 19 specifically said they did not want a parking building at all.

“I believe that the central city should be a place that actively promotes and supports walking, biking, busing etc., for both sustainability and accessibility reasons.”

Climate change

The main theme of submissions not in support (155) relate to climate change, with references to the Council's Climate Resilience Strategy and the fact we have declared a climate emergency.

- 37 submissions commented on climate change in general and that we are in a climate emergency.
- 61 submissions commented that we need to encourage other modes of transport in to the city. These comments included; improving the bus service and connecting the cycleways.
- 57 submissions didn't want a car park in this location and the land should be used differently. Some suggestions were to keep it for performances, retain as a grassed area.

"I really hope that in 10 or 20 years' time, we don't still need car parks like this in the city. I think we have a good opportunity here to make our city more people and environment friendly and less car oriented for the future."

Wilson's as a provider

The other significant theme of those not in support were to do with the car parking provider.

- 56 submissions said they did not want Wilson's Parking owning **or** running the carpark.
- 22 submissions did not support Wilson's owning the carpark and suggested instead that it should be New Zealand or Council-owned.
- Ten submissions of the 56 who didn't want Wilson's running the carpark, also wanted fewer cars in the city and to encourage people to use other modes of transport.
- 46 submissions stated that we don't need a carpark in this location as there were others to choose from in the vicinity.

"Enough parking, especially Wilson's, in this area already."