

**THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**  
**SUBMISSION ON PUBLICLY NOTIFIED PLAN CHANGE**

(Form 3)

TO: District Plan Team  
Wellington City Council  
P O Box 2199  
**WELLINGTON**

Attention: Paul Kos

**Submission on:** Proposed District Plan Change 16 (Central Area Noise Rules)

**Name of submitter:** Wellington Civic Trust

**Address of submitter:** P O Box 10183, Wellington

**1. The specific provision of the proposed plan change to which the submission relates is:**

The whole of the proposed plan change.

**2. The submission of the Wellington Civic Trust is:**

The proposed plan change is supported.

**3. The reason why Proposed Plan Change 16 is supported is:**

The Wellington Central Area is a vibrant and vital component of the city. It is a 24 hour / 7 days a week activity centre, which consists of a wide range of non-residential activities. However, the Trust's July 2002 seminar "From Work Place to Living Space" identified noise as a major concern.

The Trust is aware of some of the tensions that have arisen as an increasing number of Wellingtonians have opted to live in central city apartments. These residents have added considerably to the vitality of the city centre.

However, the Trust also acknowledges that many of the non-residential (commercial) activities, including the restaurants and various premises associated with Wellington's 'night life', should be able to operate without unreasonable controls on the levels of noise they make. The present District Plan noise limit for Central Area activities (60dBA L10) is considered by the Trust to be reasonable in the circumstances of a vibrant and vital city centre; but, at the same time, the Trust emphasises the need for the regulations on noise to be enforced.

However, the Trust also believes that there should be greater awareness by residents of the existing noise environment in the city centre, which is significantly higher than the noise environment in the Residential Areas, and particularly after 10pm.

The Trust is aware that some individual apartment owners have undertaken acoustic insulation, but the Trust also understands that most apartments have not. This lack of acoustic insulation has resulted in what might well be regarded as an unsatisfactory internal living environment within many apartments. This situation has resulted in a growing number of noise complaints.

It is principally for these reasons that the Trust supports the overall intent and general thrust of Proposed District Plan Change 16, which provides for acoustic insulation for buildings accommodating noise sensitive activities.

The Trust believe that the rule will ensure city centre residences and other noise sensitive activities are better protected against external noise, than is presently the case.

Notwithstanding that the District Plan presently 'suggests' that designers, developers and users of noise sensitive activities should provide for appropriate levels of insulation to buildings to stop the higher levels of noise experienced in the city centre from causing intrusion and nuisance, the Trust is aware that this suggestion has not really resulted in appropriate levels of acoustic insulation being implemented.

Consequently, the Trust agrees with the Council that it is now time for more directed measures, such as those proposed.

**4. The Wellington Civic Trust seeks the following decision:**

That Council approves Proposed District Plan Change 16, subject to any amendments to the technical details of the rule and definition that may be considered appropriate; but without any derogation from the intent that designers, developers and users must provide for appropriate levels of acoustic insulation to stop possible higher levels of noise from causing intrusion.

**5. The Wellington Civic Trust does wish to be heard in support of its submission.**

Signed by:

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Dianne Buchan  
Chairperson  
Wellington Civic Trust

9 June 2003

**Address for Service**

Wellington Civic Trust  
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Wellington

Attention: Dianne Buchan

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