

To: The Editor
The Wellingtonian
40 Boulcott St
P.O. Box 3740
WELLINGTON

20 June 2005

Dear Sir,

Like you in your front page story in the 9th June issue, the Wellington Civic Trust is delighted that the Government Centre precinct has re-emerged into the planning scene. The Trust's interests are in securing and advancing Wellington's distinctive characteristics in our cityscape – high amongst those characteristics are the buildings, and the spaces around and between them, which mark us as the capital city. We are delighted to be represented on the Steering Group set up by the WCC for this task.

Almost 20 years ago – in November 1987 - the Civic Trust convened a seminar in the Legislative Council chamber on “Political Heartland – the Future of the Government Centre”. A day of excellent addresses and discussions resulted in a submission going to Mr. Speaker. This noted the need to ensure that the area around and including Parliament Buildings “.....reflects and celebrates New Zealand's constitutional, spiritual and historical values, and that these qualities are protected and enhanced.....”

The concept waned in the intervening years and the area is now a rather eclectic mix of public institutions, monuments, retailing, apartments and parks, intersected by busy traffic routes. This latest initiative is an opportunity to develop this “Government Centre” in a distinctively New Zealand way.

Yours faithfully

Di Buchan
Chair