

# Wellington Civic Trust



## MEDIA RELEASE

7 September 2005

### What's best for Wellington? – Civic Trust surveys Wellington Central candidates

*"Much of inner city Wellington is plastered in concrete."* **Kane O'Connell, Alliance**

*"Wellington city is a horrible mix of badly designed buildings jammed together without any thought given to the overall appearance of the city."* **David Somerset, Progressive**

*"The global environmental challenges of peak oil and climate change require a rethinking of planning at a local level, especially in regard to transport."* **Sue Kedgley, Greens [list]**

*"I think Wellington has got much better at protecting and restoring heritage buildings."* **Marian Hobbs, Labour**

*We need to engage the public with "stronger, more significant consultation".* **Mark Blumsky, National**

*"I am suspicious of "urban design" outside the confines of public spaces. The law should not allow petty minds to decree the status quo on private land."* **Stephen Franks, ACT**

*"The idea of putting two electronic scrolling signs around the outside of the building that will soon hold the New Zealand Stock Exchange is, quite frankly, insane!"* **Fiona McKenzie, United Future**

These are just some of the views expressed by Wellington Central candidates in a Wellington Civic Trust survey on urban issues published today. See the full results at [www.wellingtoncivictrust.org](http://www.wellingtoncivictrust.org).

Civic Trust chair Di Buchan says this is the first time the Trust has conducted a survey of political candidates. It was done to alert the public to issues facing the city such as transport, urban design, heritage buildings, and the environment. "A key question we asked was about involving the public in decisions that affect the future of our city. We think public debate around these issues is important."

The Trust gave the candidates a week to respond to an email survey asking ten questions on Wellington's development. The candidates expressed views across the political spectrum.

Stephen Franks says he wants to see the public given 'more freedom from planners and their dreary neighbours, who will always prefer the status quo' and wants to 'severely prune' the Resource Management Act. But Kane O'Connell, on, wants to see the RMA strengthened and 'greater public debate on all developments that impact on our community'. Meanwhile, Marian

Hobbs says the public 'cannot be expected to be eternally vigilant' so they rely on 'watchdogs'.

The Wellington Civic Trust has also been active in promoting and rewarding good urban design. At the recent Civic Trust Award Ceremony three projects were recognised for their contribution to the life of the city. See the pictures of the winners at [www.wellingtoncivictrust.org](http://www.wellingtoncivictrust.org)

**For more information:**

Di Buchan, Chair, Wellington Civic Trust

Ph 384 0116

Email [db@corydon.co.nz](mailto:db@corydon.co.nz)