



Waterfront Watch Inc
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Dear Friends and Supporters of Waterfront Watch

On Monday next week, 24 August, Waterfront Watch will be back in the Environment Court contesting another building on the waterfront. The 5-storey office building is proposed for the site opposite the Post Office building on Waterloo Quay currently used for campervans. The Council has agreed to sell a 125 year lease over the site to Willis Bond Ltd (who have developed most of the other waterfront buildings) if they are successful in their application for resource consent. Supporters are welcome to sit in the public gallery of the court, level 5 of the District Court building in Balance Street, 9.30-5pm Monday to Friday.

The normal procedure is for submissions on resource consents to be first considered by the city council, using appointed commissioners for the hearing, before we have to decide whether to lodge an appeal to the Environment Court. In this case Willis Bond and the council agreed that the application should go directly to a court hearing. This means that WW will be involved at the Environment Court level much earlier than we had considered likely. Normally the council hearing serves as practice run for the applicant and provides an opportunity for the views of Wellingtonians to be heard in a less formal setting. Because this application is going direct to the court several of the individuals and groups who initially made well thought-out submissions, including the Wellington Architectural Centre, have withdrawn from the case. Five individuals in addition to Waterfront Watch have continued with their objections and will be appearing at the hearing.

The rushed timetable for the hearing has meant that Waterfront Watch will not be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. Instead our case has been assembled by the committee with the help of some of our very able members and supporters. We have engaged Barbara Fill, who gave evidence at our appeals against the Hilton Hotel and Variation 11, to appear for Waterfront Watch again to give expert evidence about the effect the proposed building would have on the historic waterfront setting. We are hopeful that we will be successful, together with the other parties that have lodged objections, in persuading the Environment Court that the building should not be approved.

Our objection has several strands. Our main concern is that there is no justification for an office building on the waterfront that will block views and permanently remove a significant area from public use at a time when the increasing numbers living in the inner city need more space for recreation. The design on the building would clash with the maritime setting, and its size will overshadow the historic Eastbourne Ferry Terminal and sheds 11 and 13 along the edge of the Quay.

More information about the court case, including pictures of the proposal and links to background documents, has been posted on our website www.waterfrontwatch.org.nz The hearing will involve significant costs, even without a lawyer appearing for us in court. We would ask members and supporters to contribute through your subscriptions (\$8/\$15/\$25) and by sending donations to PO Box 19045 or direct to BNZ 02-0560-0364988-000

With best wishes

Patrick McCombs (President) and the Waterfront Watch Committee (Alana Bowman, Victor Davie, John Galloway, David Lee, Pauline Swann, Katie Underwood).