

REPORT 1
(1215/22/IM)

APPROVAL OF RECOMENDATION ON THE NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT FOR SUPREME COURT DESIGNATION

1. Purpose of Report

To report to Council the recommendations of the Hearing Committee with regard to the Notice of Requirement for the Supreme Court Designation to Council for approval.

2. Background

It is recommended that Council:

- 1. Receive the information*
- 2. Approve the recommendations of the Hearing Committee in respect of the Notice of Requirement for the Supreme Court Designation as attached in Appendix One of this report.*

3. Background

The Minister of Justice (MOJ) has made a Notice of Requirement (NOR) for the designation of an area of Central Area land for use as the Supreme Court of New Zealand. The site to which the NOR applies is the Wellington city block bounded by Stout Street, Balance Street, Whitmore Street and Lambton Quay. The site contains the Old High Court Building and the area known as 'Justice Park'.

At this time the MOJ has sought only to designate the site for "justice purposes". Although some plans for the new Supreme Court building were included with the NOR documentation, they are for information purposes only and do not form part of the NOR that the Council has been asked to process. The MOJ plans to submit an Outline Plan to Council after the designation has been approved, for works to construct a new two storied building to house the Supreme Court. The building is proposed to be situated mainly on the Justice Park portion of the site, with the existing Old High Court Building to be restored so that it can be used as part of the Supreme Court complex. As the Outline Plan information does not form part of the NOR, it could not be considered at the hearing.

The hearing of submissions was held on Friday 23 March 2007. On the Hearing Committee were Councillors Gill and Cook. Following deliberations the Committee has recommended that the NOR be submitted for approval with conditions.

The full discussion and recommendations of the Hearings Committee are included in the hearing report, attached as Appendix 1. If the recommendations are confirmed by Council, the recommendation will be forwarded on to the MOJ who will make the final decision on the designation. Once this decision is made, Council will publicly notify the decision and it will be served on the submitters. Submitters and the Council will have the option of appealing the decision to the Environment Court within 30 working days. If no appeals are made the Designation will become operative and be added to the District Plan.

Report from: Cr Leonie Gill, Chair Hearing Committee, Notice of Requirement, Supreme Court