

Submission from LIVE WELLington
Stream 3 Follow Up (Toomath Buildings)
2 November 2023

In Minute 39 the chair of the Wellington City Proposed District Plan Hearings Panel noted the recent fire at the Toomaths building on Ghuznee Street and asked for submissions whether its heritage listing in Schedule 1 of the PDP should be retained.

It is LIVE WELLington's understanding that the facade of the building remains and could be retained. It is therefore our view is that the heritage listing should be retained for the facade.

There are several examples around Wellington of buildings where the heritage facade has been retained while constructing a higher modern building behind.

This retains a connection to the history of the building and the character feeling of the area, and in this case allows a valuable connection to remain to the Cuba St heritage precinct.

The other reason LIVE WELLington supports this approach is that we don't want to see arson encouraged as a way of escaping the costs of maintaining heritage buildings. The owner of this building had been prevaricating for years as this article from 2019 shows.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/112440795/lesters-attack-grossly-unfair-says-developer-accused-of-neglecting-dangerous-building>

The negligent owners should not be 'rewarded' by getting the site delisted.