



chatham islands council

Chatham Islands
**Waitangi Hall Consultation
Submissions Report**
2023

Executive summary

The Waitangi Hall was part of the Council office buildings until Council moved into new premises in January 2022. The old building is no longer fit for use and Council needs to decide what to do with it. With the understanding of the significance of the building to the community, and the financial implications, Council decided to seek community feedback as to their opinions on what should be done with it.

The options presented were:

- 1) Get rid of the building.
Demolish it or tender for removal.
- 2) Repair the entire building.
Get it to a standard that is fit for use for something else.
- 3) Partially repair.
Some newer parts of the building are in better condition and would require less work to fix. Some parts could be fixed and the other parts removed.

A building report, summary building report and estimated figures was made available for the community to read and understand the implications to inform their submission. The information was available on the website, which was advertised via the Council newsletter, the Chatham Community Focus Trust newsletter and several social media posts. Additionally, we hosted two drop in sessions for the community to speak to Councillors.

Response rate

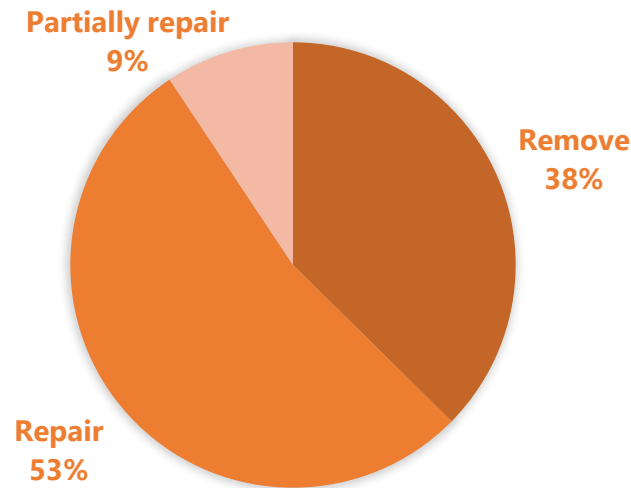
The survey received a total of 107 responses (49 online and 58 paper copies). This is a huge level of engagement from the community and Council is thrilled with this level of response. It is an indicator that the community is invested in this decision, and our methods of engagement have been effective.

Submission responses

The submissions indicated a split perspective on what to do with the hall. However, **the majority voted to repair the building.**

The results were:

- Remove: 40
- Repair: 57
- Partially repair: 10



Comments

We gave respondents the opportunity to provide comment as to what they would like to see the building or space used for if it were to be repaired (or not, in some circumstances). The comments can be categorised as follows:

- Hall/community space (26)
- Car park (10)
- Sport centre/indoor gym (10)
- Art/culture (9)
- Small business area/shops/market (5)
- Offices (5)
- Housing/accommodation (4)
- Not a car park (2)
- Gifted/sold to local person/organisation (2)
- Community koha kitchen (1)
- Pool (1)

The majority of comments indicated a desire for a community space and a restoration of the original purpose of the building. Many comments suggested a combination of the above. It is worth noting that some comments were instead for the use of the space, if the building was not to be repaired. For example, using the space for parking facilities. Often this comment was coupled with a desire for a partial repair, with the hall space to be removed and used for parking.

Some submitters provided comments that were not specifically related as to what to do with the building, but instead expressed other suggestions or concerns. These have been categorised as follows:

- Form a committee to acquire funding to help build/rebuild.
- Not happy about burden on ratepayers.
- Recommending the build be done in stages to help manage cost.
- Various suggestions on how to finance ongoing maintenance.
- Put the money for the sale or removal of it towards the build or erection of a war memorial for ANZACs.
- Concerns around boundary issue.

At one of the drop in sessions, a request was also made that the hall's name be changed to the Centennial War Memorial Hall.

A small number of submitters asked that their submission be spoken to in an upcoming Council meeting. These will be heard in early 2024.