



Wellington's wind wand blew to within a metre of Kilbirnie's Cobham Drive on Friday, nearly hitting cars and pedestrians.

Photo: TIM ROSAMOND

Wellington too windy for new wand?

TOM HUNT

WELLINGTON'S wind wand has a new feature – it can now blow down to tap you on the shoulder.

On Friday, winds gusts topping 130kmh slammed the capital, causing the sculpture to lurch heavily over State Highway 1 at Kilbirnie's Cobham Drive.

Sources have confirmed that the new, rebuilt wand is lighter than the original and, as a result, could blow lower.

On Friday, it reportedly blew down to within a metre of the roadway – low enough to hit cars or pedestrians on Cobham Drive.

The orange, 36m-long wind sculpture – called *Zephyrometer* –

was badly damaged after being hit by lightning in August 2014.

After being repaired by its makers, it was re-installed at its home at the corner of Evans Bay Pde and Cobham Drive in May this year.

Wellington City Council received eight calls about *Zephyrometer* on Friday from people

worried the artwork was broken because it bent so low, spokesman Clayton Anderson said. A ranger went to the site and, with police, decided it was safe.

The council now plans to talk to the artist, Phil Price, to see how the wand could be fixed so it does not bend as much in very strong winds.