



Title: Heritage Policy

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Policy:

See attached.

The Heritage Policy promotes a framework for Council's heritage activities, including the Earthquake Risk and Heritage Building Fund and the Heritage Project Fund. It includes wharves structures and oral history as well as buildings.

The policy was developed with the assistance of the Heritage Steering Group and was subject to a public consultation process during 1999. Any cost associated with the implementation of the policy are subject to the Annual Plan process.



HUTT CITY
COUNCIL

HERITAGE POLICY

Development Policy Division

August 2000

Heritage Policy Summary

Strategic Plan

The goals and objectives of the Heritage Policy are consistent with the Urban Design Goals of the Hutt City Council Strategic Plan 2000-2010. The goal is;

“To ensure that Hutt City develops an urban environment that will help to attract people and investment and retains heritage buildings and features are retained for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Vision

Hutt City will be a place where cultural heritage, history and tradition are valued, protected, promoted and conserved. The Hutt City Council will play a key role in ensuring that the city’s heritage in all its forms is identified and protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Definition

Heritage value means possessing historical, archaeological, architectural, technological, aesthetic, scientific, spiritual, social, and traditional or other special cultural significance, associated with human activity.

Goals

- To retain and promote heritage values in the City.
- To recognise, protect and conserve sites, structures, places, for example wharves and buildings and areas of heritage significance.
- To ensure the conservation of Hutt City Council archives including oral archives and collections of general, local and regional significance.

Objectives

1. To identify sites, structures, places and areas of heritage significance.
2. To protect, promote and encourage the conservation of heritage sites, structures, places and areas.
3. To protect and conserve significant Maori sites.
4. To ensure the care, management and storage of archives including oral archives and collections of general, local and regional significance.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Hutt City Council Heritage Policy has been developed in response to Hutt City Council's Strategic Plan, which has recognised the growing awareness in New Zealand of the need to protect and conserve heritage property, a commitment to the recognition and protection of Maori sites and taonga, and the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Heritage Policy provides a co-ordinated framework of strategic goals, specific objectives and associated tasks to combine regulation, advocacy and promotion, and targeted incentives, for heritage activity in Hutt City.

Implementation of the policy will be an on going commitment dependent each year on annual plan funding.

Council already has in place a number of mechanisms to protect Hutt City's heritage. There is a range of activities within Council, which already contribute significantly to the identification, protection and conservation of Hutt City's heritage

- the Proposed District Plan recognises heritage buildings and structures, historic residential activity areas, and significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources, and provides policies and rules for their protection;
- Council's Annual Plan provides for an Earthquake Risk Heritage Building Fund, to provide grants to owners of heritage buildings for feasibility studies and working drawings for strengthening work;
- the Annual Plan also provides for a Heritage Project Fund for plaques, trails and interpretative projects;
- the Petone Settlers Museum maintains a collection and offers exhibitions and education on local social history, and migration and settlement to the region;
- the Hutt City Libraries maintain Local Studies Reference and Research Services to collect, preserve and make accessible the written and oral history of Hutt City and its people;
- the Hutt City Council Archives provide for the care, maintenance and storage of the collection of historical records of Hutt City Council and its predecessor local authorities and businesses, and access to the information the collection contains.

2 VISION AND GOALS

Vision

The vision encapsulates a simple image of the future state of Hutt City with respect to heritage, and seeks to provide a context for Hutt City Council activity in the conservation of heritage areas, sites, buildings, and places, and of archives and collections.

Hutt City will be a place where cultural heritage, history and tradition are valued, protected, promoted and conserved. The Hutt City Council will play a key role in ensuring that the city's heritage in all its forms is identified and protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Definition

Heritage value means possessing historical, archaeological, architectural, technological, aesthetic, scientific, spiritual, social, traditional or other special cultural significance, associated with human activity. (*1992 Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value*)

Goals

The three goals of the Heritage Policy provide the strategic framework for the recognition, valuing, protection, promotion and conservation of heritage in Hutt City.

To retain and promote heritage values in Hutt City.

The first goal, emphasises the importance of heritage values as a precondition to any specific actions.

The geographic area covered by the Hutt City Council has a record of commitment and achievement in recognising and preserving its history and heritage. Appreciation of the value of heritage to the city is reflected in the Proposed District Plan, a specific Council activity in the Annual Plan, and in a wide range of historical activities throughout the city. The retention of this spirit of recognising, recording and preserving the heritage of the area, and of promoting heritage values across the

city are essential for wide public support for the successful implementation of the heritage policy.

To recognise, protect and conserve sites, structures, places, for example wharves and buildings and areas of heritage significance.

The second goal focuses on the architectural and archaeological heritage of Hutt City.

In keeping with the importance placed on the value of heritage, a number of specific initiatives in Hutt City combine regulation, targeted incentives, and advocacy and promotion to protect and conserve heritage sites, structures, places and areas in the city. The Proposed District Plan has three chapters covering historical and heritage issues, objectives and policies – 3C (Historic Residential Activity Area), 14E (Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources), and 14F (Heritage Buildings and Structures). Other initiatives include the Council's Earthquake Risk and Heritage Building Fund, and the Heritage Project Fund, the activity of local historical societies and the Jackson Street programme, local publications on the history of the area, and the broad range of exhibitions, educational and public outreach programmes of the Settler's Museum. This range of initiatives can be refined, rearranged, and expanded as priorities and budgets allow.

To ensure the conservation of Hutt City Council archives including oral archives and collections of general, local and regional significance.

The third goal addresses archives and collections of heritage value to Hutt City.

In addition to the Hutt City Council Archives, required under the local Government Act, Council also maintains collections of local and regional heritage material including oral archives, in the Petone Settlers Museum, the Local Studies Reference and Research Service of Hutt City Libraries, and the Dowse Art Museum. Local historical societies all actively collect materials relating to their respective communities.

3 OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The following four objectives of the Heritage Policy define the specific activity areas within which heritage work will be undertaken.

Under each of the objectives there are a number of actions identified as tasks, which can be undertaken as specific projects over a defined time period.

OBJECTIVE 1

To identify sites, structures, places and areas of heritage significance.

TASKS

- Continue to develop criteria for consideration of the significance of heritage sites, buildings, places and areas
- Produce a comprehensive inventory of significant Maori sites
- Maintain and further develop a comprehensive inventory of heritage sites, structures, places and areas

OBJECTIVE 2

To protect, promote and encourage the conservation of heritage sites, structures, places and areas.

TASKS

- Use regulatory methods (e.g. District Plan and Building Act) to achieve and enhance the protection of significant heritage sites, buildings, places and areas
- Maintain the list of heritage sites, buildings, places and areas in the District Plan and continue to review it
- Continue to control additions and alterations to listed heritage buildings through the District Plan
- Continue to recognise through the District Plan the suitability of significant heritage buildings for a diverse range of activities
- Maintain and administer an Earthquake Risk and Heritage Building Fund to assist owners of heritage buildings to undertake strengthening
- Develop a programme of street improvements in heritage areas in conjunction with other Council projects
- Consider, on a case by case basis, guaranteeing loans to owners to refurbish heritage buildings, where the building is of significant heritage and public importance
- Examine methods for the provision of free advice to owners of heritage property on how to carry out alterations in accordance with District Plan guidelines
- Waive resource consent fees up to a maximum level for alterations to listed heritage buildings
- Undertake advocacy and education initiatives each year including:
 - ✓ promote and develop existing Council heritage functions
 - ✓ participation in regional and national heritage promotions
 - ✓ development of heritage trails

- ✓ provision of plaques for significant heritage sites and structures
- ✓ use of the media to promote heritage preservation projects
- ✓ support publication of historical material on Hutt City

- Support local heritage area programmes and activities, such as the Jackson Street Programme, and local historical societies, trusts and museums

- Promote 1950s architecture as part of the special character of the City

- Advocate for central government and private incentives.

OBJECTIVE 3

To protect and conserve significant Maori sites

TASKS

- To continue to develop appropriate criteria for identifying, protecting and conserving significant Maori sites in consultation with Tangata Whenua
- To maintain and further develop a comprehensive list of significant Maori sites in the District Plan
- Continue to control the modification of listed significant Maori sites

OBJECTIVE 4

To ensure the care, management and storage of archives including oral archives and collections of general, local and regional significance.

TASKS

- Develop criteria for the acquisition of archives and collections
- Produce an inventory of archives and collections
- To provide adequate and professional accommodation and resources to enable appropriate storage, conservation and development of archives and collections.
- Provide adequate and professional customer service facilities and access to archives and collections
- Provide information and promote archives and collections by liaison with local media and other groups