

**NOTES FROM A LOCAL AUTHORITY HERITAGE SEMINAR HELD AT
THE INVERCARGILL CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM ON FRIDAY 10
MARCH 2006.**

Present:

Murray Miller	Christchurch City Council
George Farrant	Auckland City Council
Vanessa Tanner	Auckland Regional Council
Bronwyn Graham	Environment Southland
Alina Hughes	Waitakere City Council
Terence Boylan	Invercargill City Council
Peter Kloosterman	Southland District Council
Amanda Ross	Christchurch City Council
Ralph Henderson	Dunedin City Council
Ann Cheng	Dunedin City Council
Rose Biss	Tasman District Council
Pamela Gare	Invercargill City Council
Judith Christie	Invercargill City Council
Julia Forsyth	Selwyn District Council

Apologies:

Jane Dunlop	Porirua City Council
Andrew Hammond	Timaru District Council
Aaron Leith	Southland District Council
Ian Grant	Auckland City Council

Correspondence:

Email from Robert McClean, NZHPT regarding the Resource Management (Statutory Advocacy) Strategic Plan and proposed projects. (attached)

Proceedings:

1. Christchurch City Council District Plan Heritage Provisions – Issues and Options paper

Murray Miller presented this paper

2. Christchurch City Council District Plan Heritage Provisions – Conservation Plans

In the interests of time management, this item was left for a later seminar

3. Settings around heritage items for protection (Christchurch City Council)

- Looking at visual effects and the context in which heritage items exist. Identifying settings that have heritage value in their own right

- If the setting extends beyond the land parcel regulating this may bring an onus on adjacent property owners. An example is a large homestead, subdivided, with a belt of trees. A pragmatic approach is required and therefore the CCC will be recommending that the regulation of settings be limited to those within the property on which the heritage item is situated.
- 'Context' is the key word
- Use of settings began with large houses in Auckland City – it is mandatory now when considering proposals concerning the surrounding land to consider what impact there is on the primary item. For example Auckland Museum – would be unthinkable without its setting. The geometric radii is worked out in cases like these. If a heritage house, geometric surrounds are used, ignoring cadastral boundaries plus street frontages – four metres or to the curb line, whichever is the greater. Every new protected item has a protected surround. GPS used to plot exact areas. Tables of latitude/longitude entered in the schedule. This creates a lot of colour copy, so CD storage is used for this part of the plan, and printed as required. (Auckland City Council)
- There was discussion on how wahi tapu sites are dealt with in Auckland.

4. Heritage Grants schemes – what works best/criteria (Tasman District Council)

- Grants on case by case basis – direct conservation Number 1 priority. Very broad guidelines. Can apply to private land owners. People have to have funding from another source in addition. Majority natural heritage. (Auckland Regional Council)
- \$400,00 available. Loans mainly (Dunedin City Council)
- Non –regulatory methods include subsidies for repainting of heritage buildings in the city centre. Also the Southland Heritage Building Preservation Trust has funding. (Invercargill City Council)
- \$100,000 split between built heritage and ecology. Works by subsidy. Suspensory loans currently under discussion. Avoid grants of money towards day to day maintenance – more for extraordinary things. Many are paid retrospectively, (Auckland City Council)
- Grant programme under review – lot of demands on the budget. \$560,000 per annum of discretionary funding. This and next year already subscribed. Wide range of grants, including studies that support heritage, such as conservation plans and architectural/structural condition assessments. Direct grants are available for seismic strengthening, exterior/interior conservation and fire/egress upgrades of listed heritage items. Property owners of listed heritage items may also be eligible for reimbursement of resource consent fees. The level of funding is dependent on the group classification of the heritage item A

conservation covenant is required on properties where an owner receives more than \$50,000. (Christchurch City Council)

- Green network applications accepted. Council does not have a built heritage fund (Waitakere City Council)
- Natural heritage – rates relief on QEII land (Southland District Council)

5. Painting / Repainting Initiatives (Dunedin City Council)

- City Centre Repainting Initiatives - \$20 per lineal metre per storey. (Invercargill City Council)
- If a heritage item is painted already, there are no controls over repainting. If on the other hand, a grant is provided, the use of appropriate colours is a condition of consent. Where testing proves that the original masonry will withstand appropriate paint removal techniques, a grant can be given to remove paint. (Christchurch City Council)

6. Protecting heritage views (Dunedin City Council)

- Protection of specific buildings and inner city vistas, and volcanic cones – prohibited activity. Important to be very precise. (Auckland City Council)
- No protection. Some plans to do this in the future (Christchurch City Council)
- Six view points are protected (Tasman District Council)
- No protection (Southland District Council)

7. Building Act policy for earthquake prone buildings (Tasman District Council)

- The Tasman District Council policy was circulated
- Waiver under the Building Act – dispensations can be granted when it is unreasonable to comply with the Building Act
- Proposed policy has been developed and is now out for public comment (Christchurch City Council)
- A review of earthquake proofing is only undertaken with a change of use under the Building Act (Invercargill City Council)

8. Centralisation of Heritage Registers (Environment Southland)

- Proposal to have a central heritage register for Southland, using all existing data. Will reflect all new and existing sites. Spatial map. (Environment Southland)
- ARC did a similar project 1991-96. Very useful tool. Public document. (Auckland Regional Council)
- Data ownership issues. Agreement to share data. Very few things charged.
- Resources required to handle huge amounts of data, with different accuracy and technologies.
- Project completed (Tasman District Council)

9. Policy Statement Update and Building Act Policy (Auckland City Council)

- MfE thinking about policy statement on heritage. Good idea in principle. Statutory or non-statutory? George Farrant will be putting forward the territorial authorities' view that they need input into the strategy.
- Good practice is more suitable than a national policy statement.

Suggestion that the next forum be held over two days – one day of business, and one day of a tour of the district and its heritage with an interest in viewing case studies. To be held in September, location to be determined.