

7 ISSUES, OBJECTIVES: Heritage

7.1 OVERVIEW OF HERITAGE

Heritage can encompass a range of natural and human-made features which all contribute to the cultural and spiritual characteristics of a given area. The values that a community gives to these features/items are a complex of physical and cultural inter-relationships. That is, a person or community may value a particular building or natural feature for a number of reasons, based on its architectural merit or intrinsic qualities, and/or its historical and social importance. Heritage can apply to anything which is passed from one generation to another.

The importance of heritage protection is recognised in section 7(e) of the Resource Management Act 1991 as a matter for Councils to have particular regard to in achieving the purpose of the Act. Section 74(2)(b)(ii) of the Resource Management Act states that a territorial authority shall have regard to relevant entry in Historic Places Trust Register when preparing or changing a District Plan.

It is important that the District Plan identifies and recognises the importance of heritage features to the community, and to protect and enhance them for present and future generations. It is not possible to protect all features which contribute to the heritage values of the District and the nation, however, it is possible to protect those that are considered to be of most significance or which are most "valued".

This section relates closely to the matters referred to in Section 3 'Natural Features and Values'. This section focuses on those features of specific heritage value and which are mainly human-made or are predominantly of cultural value. Section 3 relates to natural landscapes and features.

Maori settlement based around existing natural features occurred prior to European settlement in the early 1800s of the Horowhenua District.

7.2 SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES FOR HERITAGE

Issue 15: Insufficient knowledge of the heritage resource.

Issue 15(2): Inadequate public involvement and understanding of the heritage resource.

Issue 16: Degradation of the heritage resource.

Issue 16(2): Conflicting management interests.

Issue 15: Insufficient knowledge of the heritage resource.

As the founding Maori and European families of the district dissipate, so too does much knowledge of the heritage features and values that are inherent to the district. The community must have the opportunity to appreciate these values in order for the legacy to continue and for the district to have a sense of identity.

The heritage resource cannot be sustainably managed if the features are unknown.

7 ISSUES, OBJECTIVES: Heritage

OBJECTIVE 10:	To identify the heritage features that are significant to the community.
POLICY 10.1:	To cooperate with the local Iwi and appropriate agencies to identify the unknown heritage features.
POLICY 10.2:	To maintain and expand the current heritage databases.
POLICY 10.3:	To encourage the community to identify the unknown heritage features.

Issue 15(2): Inadequate public involvement and understanding of the heritage resource.

The success of any initiatives to protect significant heritage features relies ultimately on the understanding and co-operation of the general public.

There are two reasons for a lack of community interest regarding an issue: limited topical knowledge and insufficient familiarity of the consultation process. To increase both the understanding of the issue and the involvement of the public, the community must be exposed to the issue and informed of their opportunities for involvement in the process.

OBJECTIVE 10(2):	Provide for greater public involvement and understanding of the heritage resource.
POLICY 10(2).1:	To actively promote, through education and promotional programmes, greater public understanding and appreciation of heritage features and the importance of protecting them.
POLICY 10(2).2:	To develop procedures for the public nominations of heritage features.
POLICY 10(2).3:	To actively promote a greater public understanding of the public consultation process, the options and opportunities for public involvement in the planning process.
POLICY 10(2).4:	To promote public access where this will not adversely affect conservation or private property rights.

Issue 16: Degradation of the heritage resource.

The heritage resource is finite. Degradation to any feature has a significant impact on the present community and diminishes the heirloom left for future generations.

Inappropriate land use, subdivision or development can result in the degradation of the heritage resource and in particular, a decline in the health of the heritage trees.

7 ISSUES, OBJECTIVES: Heritage

OBJECTIVE 11:	To protect the heritage features which are of significance to the community.
POLICY 11.1:	To ensure that the heritage values associated with a heritage feature are not adversely affected by inappropriate land use, subdivision or development.
POLICY 11.2:	To improve the knowledge of heritage owners and the community about values associated with the heritage features.

Issue 16(2): Conflicting management interests.

Many heritage items are in private ownership. However, both the individual landowner and the wider community derive benefits from the presence of heritage features. A conflict of interest can arise relating to private property rights and the protection or management of heritage features.

OBJECTIVE 11(2):	To balance private property rights with the public good.
POLICY 11(2).1:	Encourage private landowners to voluntarily protect/conservate heritage features.
POLICY 11(2).2:	Increase public understanding of the importance of that resource and their values and the responsibility of public and private landowners in the management and protection.
POLICY 11(2).3:	Develop a range of non-regulatory mechanisms that encourage, assist and facilitate the restoration and conservation of heritage features.
POLICY 11(2).4:	Provide flexibility in development controls where the development promotes the retention, preservation and protection of the heritage feature.

Explanation and Principal Reasons

Issue 15 and related Objectives and Policies

As a public document, the District Plan is the ideal medium for the identification of the heritage features that are significant to the community. The processes required for a change to a District Plan supports local iwi and community input. Without the information that can be provided from these groups, the identification of significant heritage features becomes difficult.

Issue 15(2) and related Objectives and Policies

Many of the processes that are required for the successful implementation of the District Plan are inherent upon the involvement of the community. As the identification and protection of the heritage resource is intrinsic to the community, it is essential that the opportunities for involvement are publicised and promoted.

7 ISSUES, OBJECTIVES: Heritage

Issue 16 and related Objectives and Policies

It is not enough to identify a building or tree as a significant heritage feature and expect its protection in perpetuity. Current trends in the development or redevelopment of areas, particularly urban, have decreased the retention likelihood of the heritage resource. It is essential therefore, that methods are put in place that ensure the protection and retention of the value for which a heritage feature has been identified as significant.

Issue 16(2) and related Objectives and Policies

There is considerable cost involved in the maintenance of a heritage feature including time, finances and a restriction on private property rights. It may not be reasonable to require a private landowner to bear all these costs, when the public also benefits from the retention of the resource. By restricting what a landowner can do, the Good Will dissipates. In order to share the costs in accordance with the benefits, the private landowner should be supported through the provision of resources.

Conversely, the community must be compensated when development reduces the value of the heritage resource.

METHODS FOR ISSUE 15 & OBJECTIVE 10, POLICY 10.1, 10.2, 10.3

District Plan

- To develop a procedure for the review and further development of the Register of Notable Trees. The process for the nomination of trees for consideration on the Register of Notable Trees is as follows:
 - i) Enter details onto waiting list - Excel spreadsheet.
 - ii) Assessment of nominated trees by an approved assessor on an annual basis using the Standard Tree Evaluation Methodology. Trees must reach a minimum of 150 points to be eligible for inclusion in the Register of Notable Trees. (Note: A copy of the STEM criteria is available for perusal at the office of the Horowhenua District Council).
 - iii) Appropriate changes to the Register in the District Plan are then made to include any new Notable Trees.
 - iv) After five years of being classed as Notable, the tree is reassessed (monitoring purposes). Changes made to the District Plan as appropriate.
 - v) Trees assessed and found not to be significant may remain on the nomination list, to be reassessed in five years time.
- To maintain, review and further develop the Schedule of Heritage Features in the District Plan.

Other Council Initiatives

- To liaise with Iwi in accordance with the agreed protocol.
- To record the current heritage features on the property information base and update as necessary.
- Council will liaise with agencies such as the Historic Places Trust and the local Historic Societies to identify the heritage resource.

7 ISSUES, OBJECTIVES: Heritage

METHODS FOR ISSUE 15(2) & OBJECTIVE 10(2), POLICY 10(2)1, 10(2)2, 10(2)3, 10(2)4

District Plan

- Provision of information in the form of information sheets and maps to identify the location and value of the heritage features.

Other Council Initiatives

- Council will promote the public consultation process through various public documents.
- Council will provide professional advice on the management of heritage features to landowners.

METHODS FOR ISSUE 16 & OBJECTIVE 11, POLICY 11.1, 11.2

District Plan

- To schedule all heritage features in the District Plan.
- Adopt rules relating to the management and protection of heritage features.
- Council will impose conditions on resource consents to ensure the adverse effects of land use, subdivision or development are avoided, mitigated or remedied, including replacement planting.

Other Council Initiatives

- To develop and adopt a monitoring system to ensure the heritage values of features are retained.
- Provide professional information and advice to landowners of heritage features.
- Council shall where appropriate, encourage property owners to place legal heritage covenants over sites of significant heritage value. Council is a Heritage Protection Authority under sections 187-198 of the RMA and will assist landowners in placing a heritage protection order on the resource.
- Council will inform landowners of a heritage feature through Land Information Memorandums and Project Information Memorandums.

METHODS FOR ISSUE 16(2) & OBJECTIVE 11(2), POLICY 11(2)1, 11(2)2, 11(2)3, 11(2)4

Other Council Initiatives

- Provide guidelines to landowners of notable trees for the correct maintenance of the tree.

7 ISSUES, OBJECTIVES: Heritage

- Through the annual plan process, Council may commit resources such as rates relief, grants, waive administration fees, offer low interest loans in the protection of the heritage features.
- Adopt the Standard Tree Evaluation Methodology and valuation methodology to assess the notability and monetary value of trees.

7.3 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

The desired result of the combined implementation of the above policies and methods are:

- The clear identification of the heritage features that are of significance to local iwi and to the community.
- A comprehensive and integrated approach towards the protection and enhancement of the district's significant heritage features.
- A community that is aware of the importance of protecting heritage features.
- A community, which is given the opportunity to proactively manage the heritage resource.