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Minutes

What: NZ Local Heritage Planners Forum
 Where: Auckland City Council Chambers – Town Hall
 When: Friday 12th June 2009
 Who attended: List of attendees attached.

Decisions and action points	By whom	Due
Apologies: Environment Canterbury		
Minute takers: Joanne Pattison and Deborah Rowe		
Confirmation of previous minutes:		
1 Discussion of Phase I Amendments to the RMA and impact on heritage matters.		
The following key amendments were outlined and comments sought from forum members on each.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of non-complying activity status • Removal of ability to include general tree protection rules • Removal of presumption of notification • Environmental Protection Agency • 10 yearly review requirement 		
Comments received on the matters outlined above were as follows:		
Removal of ability to include general tree protection rules in District Plans was opposed by some councils (including ARC, NSCC, CCC). Supported by ACC. Noted by NSCC that trees contribute to stability of coastal land.		
The EDS conference (attended by Aranne Donald) included some discussion around the functions of the proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).		
With regard to the removal of the current requirement for a review of plans every 10 years:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some councils do rolling reviews of their plans • Heritage requires review/updating more regularly than every 10 years 		

2 Impact of Phase II Amendments to the RMA on Heritage, focusing on reviews of the following pieces of legislation:

- Building Act
- Forests Act
- Conservation Act
- Urban Design
- Historic Places Act

Considering:

- Any areas of duplication between RMA and areas outlined above?
- Any processes which could be done away with?
- Aspects/powers/functions that are fundamental to keep

Comments received on the matters outlined above were as follows:

Building Act

Access requirements in the Building Act can be to the detriment of heritage values in buildings – more flexibility required.

NZHPT working on a paper about the issue of access requirements and heritage buildings – perhaps the Forum should seek input into this paper.

Upskilling of building officers on heritage matters could be beneficial.

Current Building Act is inflexible with regards to heritage buildings.

Suggested that best practice guidance on better solutions for heritage buildings and compliance with the building code could be developed.

Noted that there is a different building code for heritage buildings in California.

Forests Act

Limited understanding within the group members as to the purpose of the Forests Act, but potential relationship between provisions which manage harvesting of indigenous forests and heritage values (administered under the RMA) of those forests.

Conservation Act

Potential conflict between the functions of DOC on the conservation estate (which has moved from a recognition of heritage values to a focus on tourism and recreation) and the functions of local authorities in protecting historic heritage.

Urban Design

Urban design principles can be one vehicle for taking an overall look at heritage values in landscapes/townscapes, in conjunction with more 'traditional' urban design issues.

Potential for the RMA to include provisions relating to the importance of urban design.

Potential for historic heritage issues to be addressed in the National Policy Statement on Urban Design that is being developed. Heritage is a fundamental aspect of Urban Design. Noted that the Urban Design NPS is on hold at the moment.

Historic Places Act

Confusion between the role of the HPA and the RMA (and plans) on heritage matters. Room for strengthening and alignment on these issues between these Acts

HPA could assist with determining levels of significance for heritage resources

Some delegates of the opinion that the provisions of the HPA that relate to archaeology are not effective enough for preventing destruction of archaeological sites.

Resourcing of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust

General agreement that the NZHPT is under-resourced to carry out its functions.

In some parts of the country this issue is compounded by geographical constraints.

Seems that a huge amount of resources are utilised by the HPT to add items to the Register, but for little regulatory or protective outcome. Perhaps these resources would be better utilised assisting under-resourced local authorities.

However it was noted that some smaller local authorities rely on the Historic Places Register to guide the determination of their district plan schedules.

National Policy Statement on Heritage

A secondary issue was raised – whether there is a need for a National Policy Statement on heritage. Thoughts on this issue were as follows:

NPS on heritage could provide guidance on determining levels of significance.

Heritage deserves its own National Policy Statement.

Resourcing of Local Authorities for Heritage Functions

Pointed out by some delegates that smaller local authorities are not able to meet their responsibilities in relation to heritage under the RMA.

Education and upskilling of planners on heritage issues is important. One suggestion was to facilitate guest lectureships at universities.

3 Roles and Responsibilities of the Forum

Possibility of setting up a 'blog' type site

General agreement that this would be a good opportunity to take up.

Potential future actions for the group

Development of a draft NPS on historic heritage.

Development of best practice guidelines, with working groups concentrating on key topics. Following four 'focus areas' were suggested:

- Statute alignment (e.g of HPA and RMA, Building Act)
- Education
- Guidance (including NPS for Heritage, Urban Design to include heritage matters)
- Resourcing

Other potential topics suggested included:

- Identification and assessment of heritage resources
- Terminology/definitions

Noted that NZHPT are looking to organise a seminar on heritage incentives. Might be value in attending this seminar.

Format/Structure of future meetings

Get the agenda out earlier

Future meetings could incorporate the following:

- guest speaker on a particular topic
- address particular pre-defined topics per meeting

Discussion about terms of reference for the group

Debate about whether the term 'cultural heritage' continued to be appropriate for the group. Resolved by vote that the term 'cultural heritage' should be replaced with 'historic heritage' in the terms of reference for the Forum.

Resolved by vote that 2nd point in the terms of reference should be moved to be the first point.

ACTION: update terms of reference in accordance with agreed points above.

Tba

5 Information sharing

The following offers of information sharing were made:

ARC offered to share their submission on the Phase I amendments to the RMA.

Aranne Donald offered to circulate the website containing reference material on the EPA from the EDS conference.

6 Next Meeting

Agreed that the next forum will be hosted by Christchurch City Council on the 27th November

Suggested that working groups on key topics be developed prior to the next meeting of the forum.

Focus of next meeting to address guidance on heritage issues.

7 Roundtable Discussion

Auckland Regional Council – business as usual. Extensive

work on regional parks – conservation programmes. Regional advocacy programme. Review of regional policy statement. Review of management plans for our regional parks (27). Happy to share any information from their work. Archaeology – Medlands – Great Barrier – Rangitoto – prints – eruption material.

Christchurch City Council – Heritage Plan Change

Heritage conservation areas – consultants working on identification studies on Akaroa and Christchurch.

Dunedin City Council

Thematic study on Dunedin's heritage used to expand schedules. Planner exclusively working on heritage.

Craig Bishop – **Auckland City Council** – Natural heritage integrated in to structure. More focus on HGI and Isthmus Central Area. Updating information on scheduled ecology sites. Undertaking full eco survey of the Isthmus. Integration of natural criteria into other heritage disciplines.

Greater Wellington Regional Council – rewrite management policy statement. Regional plan review. Coastal plan not very well defined. Freshwater plans.

Hamilton City Council – Hayes precinct – RMA

Rewrite of heritage policy – economic slowdown.

Looking to schedule 25 properties as historic items – mostly individual houses. Looking to schedule new historic precinct predominantly villas 13 out of 25 houses. Starting district plan review near end of the year. Review inventory and district plan schedule. Reviewing rules – site surrounds.

Jill Pierce – **Auckland City Council** - assessment criteria for what would be heritage landscapes.

Nelson District Council – just starting review of the Nelson Residential Management plan and heritage part of it. Financial assistance for heritage properties.

North Shore City Council – draft heritage strategy;

Theme based study reviewing their inventory

Inventory of existing items – beefing up the information

Plan change – built heritage zone – reviewed it – two appeals – confident settlement – mix of dwellings.

District plan review – now on hold.

Heritage Fund – every two months – roll over \$50K

Positive feed back. Fund is an excellent idea – constantly updating website – Heritage fund run by a Trust.

Queenstown Lakes District Council – Draft heritage strategy through committee and public consultation in August. Look at funding for studies. Working very closely with Ngai Tahu – lack of background information on heritage items.

Rodney District Council – first generation plan – no district plan changes – no dedicated heritage specialist – \$50K

heritage fund once a year.

George Farrant – **Auckland City Council**. Monte Cecilia Park
– James Wallace art collection and Monte Cecilia Park.
Protected objects act – matters arising regarding Organ at the
Town Hall. Auckland City Art Gallery – half way through
refurbishment.

Selwyn District Council – Selwyn rural TLA – no heritage
planners. Selwyn heritage fund \$15K per year.

Waitakere District Council

Working on site interpretation signs. Harbour view
conservation plan. Gun emplacements.

Auckland City Council

District plan review – FPF Taken a new policy approach.
Heritage policy that assists in the identification process deals
in protecting these items.

See <http://www.itsmybackyard.co.nz>

September – Heritage Festival 19th September – 5th October

Next meeting: 27th November 2009
Host: Christchurch City Council

Distribution List: All attendees
LGNZ