



HERITAGE - POLICY

HE2.1 Introduction

In managing the use development and protection of the District's natural and physical resources, Council is required, as a matter of national importance, to recognise and provide for:

- (a) The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga.
- (b) The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Heritage resources form an important part of the District's social values, serving to link successive generations.

Under the Resource Management Act, Historic Heritage is taken to mean: "those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities:

- (a) Archaeological
- (b) Architectural
- (c) Cultural
- (d) Historic
- (e) Scientific
- (f) Technological

And includes:

- (a) Historic sites, structures, places, and areas.
- (b) Archaeological sites.
- (c) Sites of significance to Māori, including wahi tapu.
- (d) Surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources.

These requirements are set out in Section 6 – Matters of national importance, and Section 2 – Interpretation, of the Resource Management Act.

The New Zealand Historic Places Act 1993 requires the New Zealand Historical Places Trust to maintain a register of heritage resources. The register is primarily an advocacy tool, with one of its functions being to assist historic places, historic areas, wahi tapu and wahi tapu areas to be protected under the Resource Management Act 1991. Thus, registration under the Historic Places Act 1993 is insufficient for the protection of some heritage resources.

The most effective means of managing the diversity of heritage resources in the District is by identifying those resources of most significance. In order to ensure the appropriate level of protection is provided to those resources, provision has been made for the specific management of these items in the Ruapehu District Plan.

Appendix 4 identifies heritage buildings and sites of importance in the Ruapehu District. The relative importance of each heritage item has been assessed and each item has been assigned a ranking of either A, B or C.

Category A items are, in general, those that are listed with the New Zealand Historic Places as a Category I site, or those that are not listed but are regarded as having outstanding District-wide significance (eg, War Memorials, etc).



Category B items are those that are listed with the New Zealand Historic Places as a Category II site, or those that are not listed with HPT but are regarded as having District wide significance.

Category C items are identified for information only and are not protected by the Heritage rules.

Appendix 6 identifies heritage trees within road reserves and other Council-owned land such as public parks. Most of these trees have been identified by a Heritage Tree Evaluation and have been attributed a valuation score based on the following categories:

Form:	Based on branch architecture and balanced crown.
Occurrence:	Frequency of the particular tree species within the area.
Indigenous:	Recognition of significant native trees in New Zealand.
Useful Life Expectancy:	Considers factors that may limit the longevity of the tree, eg, soil compaction, decay, safety, etc.
Accessibility:	Access to the tree by the public.
Presence of other trees:	Perception of the tree within a group or as an individual specimen.
Visual Contribution:	Where people can visually notice the tree from a location.
History or Event:	Planted as commemorative tree, or is associated with a historic event.
Ecological:	Contribution of a tree within a forest fragment to the local ecosystem.

The trees included in the schedule are those that had a value score over 160. A copy of the report that identified these trees (entitled “Proposed Heritage Trees within the Ruapehu District” dated February 2009 prepared by Fraser Rhind Ltd) is held by Council.

Other trees which have strong historical significance for the District have also been added to the Heritage Tree Register, to ensure that they are protected.

HE2.2 Issue

- (a) Development and land-use can damage and destroy historic heritage of significance resulting in the loss of heritage values of sites, buildings, places and areas within the District.

HE2.2.1 Objective

- (a) Protection of historic heritage and the values of those resources from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

HE2.2.2 Policies

- (a) To promote the conservation and protection of heritage resources by ensuring any adverse effects on any scheduled heritage resource are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- (b) To promote the identification of historic heritage by identifying and including significant historic heritage in the District Plan Heritage Schedule.
- (c) To ensure that any subdivision containing a historic resource results in a no more than minor adverse effect on the heritage value of that resource.
- (d) Rules in the District Plan shall protect significant historic heritage listed in the heritage schedule from the adverse effects of land use and development. The assessment of adverse effects of subdivision, use and development will be guided by the principles set out below:
 - (i) Respect Values
 - Recognising the lasting values of the place or area and evidence of the origins and development of New Zealand’s distinct peoples and society.



- (ii) **Diversity and Community Resources**
Recognising the diverse cultures of New Zealand and the diverse social and physical environments and communities. There is a need to take into account the needs, abilities and resources of particular communities, including owners of historic heritage and stakeholders.
- (iii) **Sustainability**
Recognising the finite nature of historic heritage and the need to take a precautionary approach in order to safeguard the options for present and future generations. Promoting sustainability may include encouraging regular maintenance and finding compatible uses for places, including original and new adaptive uses.
- (iv) **Māori Heritage**
Recognising and providing for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga following the spirit and intent of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).
- (v) **Research and Documentation**
Ensuring interventions are informed by sufficient research, documentation and recording, where culturally appropriate. All changes should be fully documented in drawings and photographs.
- (vi) **Respect for Physical Material**
The degree to which interventions involve the least possible loss of heritage significance and the least loss of material of heritage value, including any irreversible or cumulative effects. This may be achieved by promoting repair (rather than replacement), repairing in compatible materials, respecting the patina of age, and making new work reversible.
- (vii) **Understanding Significance**
Whether the values of the place are clearly understood before decisions are taken that may result in change. Decision making, where change is being contemplated, should take into account all relevant values, cultural knowledge and disciplines. Understanding significance should be assisted by methods such as the preparation of heritage assessments and conservation plans.
- (viii) **Respect for Contents, Curtilage and Setting**
The extent to which interventions respect the contents and surroundings associated with the place. This may be achieved by ensuring, for example, that any alterations and additions to buildings, and new adjacent buildings, are compatible in terms of design, proportions, scale and materials.
- (e) Council shall have regard to the NZHPT Register of historic places, historic areas, wahi tapu and wahi tapu areas and recognise the NZHPT as a consenting authority for all pre-1900 archaeological sites.
- (f) Development and land-use associated with any previously unidentified historic heritage shall be managed in a way that avoids damage or destruction until its significance is assessed and adverse effects can be appropriately avoided or mitigated.
- (g) Council shall also have regard to the functional requirements of infrastructure providers (i.e. design life, safety, practicable options) when assessing applications in relation to any nationally significant operational infrastructure identified in the heritage schedules

HE2.2.3 Explanation of Policies

The policies seek to ensure that heritage resources within the District are retained using a range of regulatory and non regulatory methods which include rules, advocacy and education. Ruapehu District Council believes that a great deal can be achieved in the area of protecting heritage values through the provision of information to people regarding important resources.

**HE2.3 Issue**

- (a) Loss of significant trees that contribute to the character and amenity of the District.

HE2.3.1 Objective

- (a) Protection of significant trees located throughout the District.

HE2.3.2 Policies

- (a) To schedule urban trees on public land which are considered to be significant and contribute to the character and amenity of the District and to apply rules for the removal or modification of those trees.
- (b) To encourage the retention of established trees within new developments.

HE2.3.3 Explanation of Policies

Appendix 6 sets out a *Schedule of Notable Trees* located on Council land that warrant protection under the District Plan. Removal or modification of these trees will be discouraged by the need to obtain resource consent, unless the removal of such a tree or limbs is necessary in order to negate potential adverse effects.

Policy (b) seeks to encourage developers to retain trees where possible. An example of this policy being implemented would be a greenfield subdivision development that was designed around existing mature trees. The trees would help provide the character and feel of an established community and as a result would improve amenity.

HE2.4 Issue

- (a) Māori heritage sites are accessed, modified or damaged in such a way that detracts or destroys their cultural and heritage values

HE2.4.1 Objective

- (a) To recognise and protect sites of spiritual, cultural or tikanga value to Māori where this is supported by tangata whenua.

HE2.4.2 Policies

- (a) By identifying and protecting, in consultation and partnership with tangata whenua, significant Māori spiritual, cultural or tikanga sites.
- (b) By avoiding a reduction in the historical, cultural and spiritual values associated with Māori heritage sites.
- (c) By ensuring that tangata whenua (and other relevant iwi authorities) will be consulted over the use, development or protection of natural and physical resources where these affect Māori heritage sites known to Council.



HE2.4.3 Explanation of Policies

It is important that wahi tapu and other sites of significance to Māori are protected. However, identification of these sites can be problematic, especially where public identification of these sites/places may put these sites at risk. Where sites are known to Council, local iwi will be consulted in relation to any development which has the potential to affect these sites.