

Chapter 6 HERITAGE

PREAMBLE

The West Coast has many cultural and heritage resources associated with a rich regional history of Maori and European settlement and activities which provide tangible links to the past. The heritage of the West Coast is distinct from other parts of New Zealand. This is an important basis for its tourist industry. Heritage also gives identity to the people and communities of the region.

Section 7 of the Act requires that all persons (including the regional council and territorial authorities) exercising powers and functions under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to:

...(c) Maintenance and enhancement of amenity values...

...(e) Recognition and protection of the heritage values of sites, buildings, places, or areas...

The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their waahi tapu and other taonga and kaitiakitanga under Sections 6(e) and 7(a) respectively, are recognised and provided for in Chapter 5 on Matters of Significance to Poutini Ngai Tahu.

The Historic Places Act 1993 establishes the New Zealand Historic Places Trust to specifically address the protection and management of historic places. Accordingly, the role of consent authorities including the Regional Council, territorial authorities, and the Department of Conservation is complementary to, and supportive of, the Trust and its Maori Heritage Council. Before an archaeological site is disturbed, damaged or destroyed the Historic Places Act requires that the Trust gives its approval.

Section 187 of the Act provides that heritage orders may be provided in district plans to give effect to the requirement of a heritage protection authority under sections 189 and 189A. Section 189(1) states that a heritage order may be made for the purpose of protecting:

(a) Any place of special interest, character, intrinsic or amenity value or visual appeal, or of special significance to the tangata whenua for spiritual, cultural, or historic reasons; and

(b) Such area of land (if any) surrounding that place as is reasonably necessary for the purpose of ensuring the protection and reasonable enjoyment of that place.

Section 189(2) of the Act provides that a place may be of special interest by having special cultural, architectural, historical, scientific, ecological or other interest.

Clause 4(c) of Part I of the Second Schedule of the Act provides that any matter relating to the management of any actual or potential effects of any use, development, or protection of any natural and physical resources, for which the Regional Council has responsibility, on natural, physical, or cultural heritage sites and values, including landscape, landforms, historic places, and waahi tapu may be provided for in regional policy statements and plans.

Heritage values relate to resources the Regional Council has responsibility for managing, in particular Water, Habitats and Landscapes and the Coastal Environment (Chapters 8-10 respectively).

A further matter of interest is the need to preserve heritage items such as archives and artefacts and ensure that they are properly maintained.

ISSUES:

6.1 Adverse effects of resource use and development on heritage values.

6.2 The loss of heritage values and archaeological sites.

Resource use and development involves a wide range of land uses. These may have social and economic benefit to the region but must be conducted in a sustainable manner. Under the Act, as well as giving rise to issues related to the natural environment, the effects of activities on our heritage values must also be considered. Much of the identity of the West Coast lies in its rich and diverse cultural history. Evidence of this manifests itself in many forms, not the least being social customs of West Coast people but also of history preserved in the landscape. Many visitors to the region are attracted by the recreational value of its heritage. These include archaeological sites, areas or buildings of special historical and architectural interest, areas of amenity value and places of cultural significance to Poutini Ngai Tahu. There is a lack of protection of some heritage values and historic sites, with a subsequent threat of loss.

OBJECTIVE 6: To avoid, remedy or mitigate actual or potential adverse effects of resource use, development or protection on heritage and archaeological sites and values that contribute to the West Coast's distinctive character and sense of identity.

HERITAGE POLICY 6

POLICY 6.1 Promote the identification and protection of heritage values of the region, which include the following:

- a) Archaeological sites;***
- b) Places or areas of special historical, cultural or architectural interest or significance;***
- c) Places or areas of intrinsic, recreational or amenity value or of visual appeal.***

Matters to be considered when assessing heritage places or sites include:

- a) The extent to which the place reflects important or representative aspects of New Zealand history;***
- b) The level of association of the place with events, persons, or ideas of importance in the history of the (district/region);***

Cross reference policy

All Poutini Ngai Tahu policies Habitat and Landscape policies, Coastal Environment policies 10.1.1-10.1.4.

- c) The importance of the place to Poutini Ngai Tahu;*
- d) The level of community association with, or public esteem for, the place;*
- e) The potential of the place for public education;*
- f) The level of technical accomplishment or value, or design of the place including the rarity of technical accomplishment or design;*
- g) The symbolic or commemorative value of the place;*
- h) Whether it is an historic place known to date from early periods of the district's settlement i.e., such items are likely to be included in the schedule;*
- i) The rarity of the type of historic place; and*
- j) The extent to which the place forms a key part of a wider historical and cultural complex or historical and cultural landscape.*

METHODS

- 6.1 Recognise and provide for the identification and protection of heritage and amenity values in regional plans and in the consideration of resource consent applications.
- 6.2 In conjunction with territorial authorities, the Department of Conservation, Poutini Ngai Tahu, Historic Places Trust and other interested parties who have more information, or as otherwise appropriate, establish criteria for identifying heritage sites of regional significance and develop procedures to ensure that information regarding heritage resources is shared. The Regional Council will support the development of an inventory of historic and cultural places of the region to be used when assessing resource consent applications.
- 6.3 Ensure an adequate assessment of effects on heritage values is provided with resource consent applications as required by clause 2(d) of the Fourth Schedule of the Act so that adverse effects of activities on heritage values are avoided, remedied or mitigated, where appropriate.
- 6.4 As a heritage protection authority, the Regional Council will implement heritage protection orders where they are seen as appropriate and recognise and support other heritage protection authorities in carrying out their functions and duties.
- 6.5 Support the statutory functions of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and other relevant agencies for the purpose of protecting the region's heritage values. This will include encouraging provision of advice and education to raise awareness within the community of heritage values and archaeological sites, and practicable means for their enhancement.
- 6.6 Encourage territorial authorities to include provisions in their district plans for:
 - a) The identification, protection and enhancement of buildings, structures, places, features or areas of heritage value;
 - b) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values associated with heritage and archeological sites, and buildings;

- c) The realisation of their heritage protection authority status.
- 6.7 Include in resource consents appropriate conditions for the maintenance, enhancement or protection of heritage values.
- 6.8 Consider the use of economic instruments such as rates relief and encourage their use in district plans.

EXPLANATION

The West Coast Regional Council's main function in relation to amenity and heritage values is to have particular regard to those values contained in section 7 of the Act.

Other agencies in the region including territorial authorities, the Department of Conservation, NZ Historic Places Trust and Poutini Ngai Tahu have important roles in relation to integrated management of amenity and heritage values. The policies and methods adopted above support these parties working together, sharing information, and ensuring that regional and district plans and the resource consent process are able to provide effective protection of amenity and heritage values.

The Regional Council's consideration of protection of heritage values in this RPS is designed to provide clear directions on these matters within the region, and thereby making it easier to meet the requirements of section 7 (a), (c), (e), (f) and (g) of the Act. When deciding whether or not to require a heritage order, the list of matters to be considered under the policy in this chapter for assessing heritage places or sites, provide guidance.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

- 6.1 The protection and conservation of the region's heritage values, including buildings, structures, features, places and areas of heritage value.
- 6.2 The maintenance and improvement of heritage values and people's continued enjoyment of them.