

New Zealand Historic Places Trust
Pouhere Taonga



Patron:
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Our Ref: 33004-094

23 April 2008

Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009 Submission
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
CHRISTCHURCH

NOTICE OF
NZ HISTORIC PLACES TRUST SUBMISSION ON CHRISTCHURCH CITY
COUNCIL DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2008 - 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Christchurch City Council draft annual plan 2008 – 2009 and the 2008 amendments to the Long-Term Council Community Plan 2006-2016. The NZ Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) submission is with regard to provisions for funding of historic heritage in the plan.

Historic Heritage

The City Development section of the annual plan identifies \$5.119,000 to be set aside for heritage protection. The draft annual plan does not give specific detail on what specific projects or priorities these funds are allocated for. Given that the City Council has the *primary responsibility for protecting Christchurch's heritage on behalf of its residents*, page 2 heritage conservation policy - heritage protection projects need to be specified.

In particular this financial year specific resources need to be set aside (by both Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury) to progress the *Regional Cultural Heritage Strategy* and *develop a technical working party*, identified as action 6.8.4 in the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy. Specific funds and resources need to be set aside in order to commence work on this important strategic document this financial year. Additionally resources need to be set aside to commence the actions identified in 6.7.4 *Tangata Whenua* section of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy.

Heritage Grants

NZ Historic Places Trust strongly supports the Council's use of grants to conserve the city's heritage. However, we would like to see the council undertake a review of all heritage grants. For example the *Character Housing Grant* involves an onerous application process for

owners of heritage buildings for limited benefit, and the capital heritage fund has been capped. Given the serious ongoing loss of heritage places in this city, this fund should again have a substantial increase of funds each year. These funds have not been increased since Council has amalgamated with Banks Peninsula District Council and have a larger heritage resource to manage.

The NZHPT is mindful of the Council's excellent record in the past of entering into effective partnerships with owners and organisations such as the NZHPT and the Christchurch Heritage Trust, to protect historic places. In many cases funding was made available in return for covenants. High profile buildings which have been saved as a result of the partnership approach include the Lyttelton Times and Star building, Warners Heritage Hotel, Sydenham Heritage Church, the Horse Bazaar, the Music Centre of Christchurch and the Nurses' Memorial Chapel. Annual grants to maintain historic sites such as Riccarton House and Bush can also be considered as an ongoing partnership. These are the key to conserving our city's heritage and the City Council, because of its statutory responsibility and resources, should be taking the lead role. However, it has been noticeable over the past few years that the Council has been much less active in pursuing and maintaining partnerships with its key stakeholders. Aidanfield Farm Buildings is a case where a good partnership with a community group and Council could retain these significant heritage buildings and ensure that a Trust is set up to manage and conserve the buildings.

Regulatory Services

Historic heritage has been elevated to matter of national importance (Section 6) in the Resource Management Amendments 2003. As part of these amendments there is now a definition of historic heritage under the RMA, which is:

Historic heritage

- a) *means 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:*
 - i) *archaeological*
 - ii) *architectural*
 - iii) *cultural*
 - iv) *historic*
 - v) *scientific*
 - vi) *technological; and*
- b) *includes-*
 - i) *historic sites, structures, places, and areas; and*
 - ii) *archaeological sites; and*
 - iii) *sites of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu; and*
 - iv) *surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources*

The regulatory services section of the plan identifies \$2,316,000 to be set aside for maintaining and reviewing the City Plan. NZ Historic Places Trust strongly advocates that the **heritage plan review and plan change** is made a priority for this financial year and is undertaken and implemented with input from NZ Historic Places Trust. The plan review has

been in progress for some time and does appear to progressing very slowly. As well as built heritage, special amenity area reviews and residential conservation area reviews, priority needs to be given to Maori heritage and archaeological sites which are not adequately covered in the City Plan. One Maori heritage or archaeological site is included in the current heritage inventory (Moa Bone Cave at Redcliffs). While Council has indicated they have no intention to include any other archaeological or Maori heritage sites in the current plan review due to under resourcing and lack of Maori heritage expertise. NZHPT advocates that Council set aside specific funding to appoint a Maori heritage practitioner and an archaeologist to the heritage team or provide adequate funding to contract the expertise for this work to be undertaken.

Given that Christchurch City Council has now amalgamated with Banks Peninsula, NZ Historic Places Trust advocates that the heritage plan change **includes the Banks Peninsula area.**

The NZHPT do wish to be heard in support of this submission.



SIGNED

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