

Patron:
His Excellency The Hon
Anand Satyanand, PCNZM
Governor General of New Zealand

Southern Regional Office
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Our Ref: 33004-094

11 May 2007

Draft Annual Plan 2007/2008 Submission
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 23
CHRISTCHURCH

**NOTICE OF
NZ HISTORIC PLACES TRUST SUBMISSION ON CHRISTCHURCH CITY
COUNCIL DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2007 - 2008**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Christchurch City Council draft annual plan 2007 – 2008 and the 2007 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

Page 26 of the draft annual plan addresses the City Development, central city revitalisation, urban renewal and heritage protection. The draft annual plan does not give specific detail on what funds are allocated for each of these, and the work associated with each of these heading, in particular heritage protection. 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 needs to be defined.

Heritage Grants Review

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.

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 two years that the Council has been much less active in pursuing and maintaining partnerships with its key stakeholders. The NZHPT requests that Council allocates funding to undertake a comprehensive heritage grants review.

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*

Page 34 of the draft annual plan addresses regulatory services. Of particular interest to NZ Historic Places Trust is maintaining and reviewing the City Plan. NZ Historic Places Trust strongly advocates that the **heritage plan change** is made a priority for this financial year and is undertaken and implemented with input from NZ Historic Places Trust. Given that Christchurch City Council has now amalgamation with Banks Peninsula, NZ Historic Places Trust advocates that the heritage plan change **includes the Banks Peninsula area**.

Christchurch Cathedral

NZHPT supports the additional expenditure of \$1.1 million planned to contribute to the electrical upgrade of Christchurch Cathedral.

Draft Development Contributions Policy

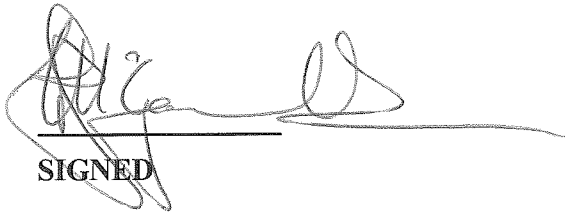
The development contributions policy adopted in 2004 contained a number of features not present in the policy in 2006. In particular, the 2004 policy listed a number of circumstances when the Council would give credit for or grant remission of development contributions, including:

- retention of historic buildings, objects or places, vegetation/trees, natural/ecological or habitat values

In contrast, the 2006 policy states 'this policy does not provide for any remissions or reductions to be applied for or granted, other than ... transitional remissions'

Given that heritage conservation is a key aspect of sustainable management, and requires significant funding, the City Council should reinstate credits for retention of heritage buildings. There are relatively few effective non-regulatory incentives that can encourage developers to retain or upgrade heritage items as part of their development. NZHPT requests that the development contributions policy provides for the retention of historic heritage.

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



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick McGovern-Wilson', written over a horizontal line.

SIGNED

Dr Rick McGovern-Wilson
Acting General Manager

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