



## Topic 6: Heritage Values

### Introduction

As part of the District Plan Review, Timaru District Council has commissioned a Discussion Document on heritage values within the district to stimulate discussion and form a basis for public consultation. This can be found at [www.timaru.govt.nz/dpr](http://www.timaru.govt.nz/dpr).

It identifies four main issues with how the current District Plan manages heritage values, establishes potential options to address these issues and discusses the associated strengths and weaknesses. We seek your feedback on the issues and options.

### Issues and Options

#### Issue 1

Is the current District Plan list of heritage items robust, i.e. does it contain all items deserving of some form of protection?

The current District Plan heritage list is based on research for the previous District Plan and suggestions of heritage groups and the public. The list however does not include all the heritage items in Heritage New Zealand's Category 1 and 2 lists that are within the Timaru District, nor does it include a number of items identified in a Built Heritage Inventory prepared by Opus Consultants in 2004.

The options for addressing this issue are to (i) retain the current heritage items list as it is; or (ii) for other known heritage items of value to be added to the list for protection under the District Plan.

#### Issue 2

Should the District Plan control works within or near archaeological sites?

Archaeological sites are defined in the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act as a site, structure or building that is associated with human activity that occurred prior to 1900, and any disturbance of a site requires an "archaeological authority" from Heritage New Zealand. There is no direct control within the District Plan of activities that could result in an archaeological site being disturbed or destroyed, potentially resulting in the loss of the opportunity to investigate, record and retrieve historical items for future generations.

The options for addressing this issue are to (i) rely on Heritage New Zealand for protection; (ii) include new rules in the District Plan requiring consent for activities likely to adversely impact the values of archaeological sites; or (iii) only identify significant archaeological sites and control land disturbance activities in these areas.

This summary outlines the issues our district faces in relation to our heritage values.

We welcome your feedback on this topic.

**Tracy Tierney**  
Timaru Ward Councillor





### Issue 3

How can heritage protection be enabled while acknowledging the economic cost of protection?

The cost of retaining or maintaining a heritage item can be substantial for an owner. An issue has been raised as to what extent the economic cost of protection should be taken into account when demolition or major renovation of heritage buildings is proposed.

The options for addressing this issue are to (i) retain the current District Plan rules requiring consent for most works on heritage buildings; (ii) incentivise, as well as advocate central government to incentivise, owners of heritage buildings to invest in earthquake strengthening and other works; or (iii) enable the upgrading, renovation, reconstruction, extension and addition of heritage buildings, particularly those at risk from damage by earthquakes to ensure the key heritage values of that building are retained and the ongoing use of that building is viable.

### Issue 4

Should protection of heritage items and buildings be extended to identify the setting in which they sit?

The setting of a heritage item often contributes to its heritage value; however the current District Plan generally only protects the heritage item itself, with no consideration for the surroundings.

The options for addressing this issue are to (i) retain the current District Plan controls which manage the subdivision of properties containing listed heritage items, but do not manage built development or removal of plantings on these sites as these could interfere with or reduce the heritage values; or (ii) identify the setting of all heritage items and include rules to manage built development within these settings.