and		
In the matter of the Timaru Proposed District Plan		
and		
	submissions by the House Movers Section of the New Zealand ssociation Inc for Hearing F – Other District-wide matters;	
	vidence of Jonathan Bhana-Thomson (CEO, House Move on of New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association Inc)	
For:	Hearing F – Other District-wide matters; hazards and risks	
Hearing date:	Wednesday 30 April 2025	
NEW ZEALAND <b>HE</b>	AVY HAULAGE ASSOCIATION INC	
	AVY HAULAGE ASSOCIATION INC	

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In the matter of the Resource Management Act 1991

## I, Jonathan Bhana-Thomson, state:

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Thank you for the opportunity to address you in relation to Hearing F matters.
- 1.2 I am the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association Inc (the Association) and have been in this role for 23 years.
- 1.3 I am very familiar with the process of relocating buildings and have made submissions in the past at various district plan hearings. I am authorised to give this evidence on the Association's behalf.
- 1.4 The New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association was established in 1965 as the national trade association for member companies that transport overweight or over dimension loads.
- 1.5 The Association has an advocacy role with central and local government agencies.
- 1.6 There are 35 members of the House Movers Section of the Association. By numbers the Association estimates that its members move about 80% of the buildings relocated in any one year nationally. With a couple of exceptions, most of the Association's House Mover members are family-owned businesses. Most have been involved in the industry for many decades. Members are also involved construction and fabrication of (new) transportable or prefabricated buildings as well as 'second hand' used buildings. This includes shifting of classrooms and similar for government agencies as well as buildings for the private sector.
- 1.7 The Association has been submitting on district plans around the country for more than 25 years. Initially many first-generation RMA plans had restrictions on relocated buildings. In most second and third generation plans, the trend over time has been more permissive i.e. to provide for relocated buildings as a permitted activity with standards, or in more recent plans not to differentiate between new and relocated buildings, and to leave matters to the Building Act.

## 2. Approach to B1 (Rural Zones) and B2 (Urban Zones) hearing

- 2.1 The Association previously appeared at the B1 Rural Zones hearing, to signal its position in relation to relocated buildings. Hearing F includes relocated building rules as a district-wide matter.
- 2.2 The Association's primary focus is on the treatment of relocated buildings across all zones, noting that the in some specific zones, like the Port area, that there are zone-specific requirements.
- 2.3 The outcome that the Association is seeking is to treat relocated dwellings on the same or similar basis as new *in situ* dwellings, subject to performance standards, including the requirement for a pre-inspection report, prior to relocation, which contains the necessary requirements to upgrade the relocated dwelling within a prescribed time period (12 months).
- 2.4 The draft rule framework is specified in the Association's submission, and I attach that as a schedule to this statement.

## 3. Staff Reports

- 3.1 I have read the s42A staff reports and agree with the position in the report.
- 3.2 The reporting planner recommended that the Association's submission be accepted in part, and recommended that relocated buildings be a permitted activity in all zones, with performance standards.
- 3.3 I agree with the reporting planner's analysis at [10.4.8]:

All relocated buildings in the PDP require resource consent as a controlled activity excluding relocated buildings in the GIZ and PORTZ where they are permitted. The reason for this, as outlined in the s32 report, is to manage adverse visual amenity effects associated with the appearance of a relocated building before the foundation and exterior renovation works are completed. However, in considering the submission from NZHHA [184.1] I accept that a less onerous consenting pathway can be provided for relocated buildings in all zones while achieving the objective and policy direction in underlying zones and the RELO chapter. The rule requirements suggested by NZHHA [184.1], for example, require all exterior reinstatement works to be completed within 12 months of a building being relocated to a site and for a relocated building to be located on foundations within two months of the building being relocated to the site (consistent with the drafting intent). Relocating and re-using buildings, in my view, should also be ultimately encouraged as it is an efficient use of physical resources.

- 3.4 I promote the principle of encouraging building re-use and relocation through a more permissive approach as long as it meets the criteria to be reinstated in a timely fashion, and for there to be a more restrictive route for buildings that do not meet the performance measures that are detailed.
- 3.5 With heritage buildings being added to the exclusions in the relocated buildings definitions, I do not oppose this and the other proposed changes to the PDP about heritage buildings. More important to the Association given the continuing increase in newly constructed transportable home, is the continued exclusion of them from the reinstatement provisions in the performance controls for recycled buildings.
- 3.6 In terms of ensuring compliance with the rules and standards for each Zone, the planning report considers that this does not need a specific Rule, and I would be comfortable with the proposed advice note proposed at 10.4.10
- 3.7 Meanwhile the proposed changes by the Planner to remove the requirement for a licenced building practitioner to be involved are acceptable to us, as the owner of the property needs to commit to completing the work within the 12 month period which is the important target to achieve by the person that has most control over this.
- 3.8 Overall, I seek the Hearings Panel endorsement for the proposed Planners changes to the Proposed Plan that introduces a permitted activity option for relocated buildings to all zones.

## 4. Summary of Evidence

### 4.1 The Association:

- (a) <u>Supports</u> express provision in the Timaru District Plan for relocated buildings as a permitted activity in all zones where building activities are provided for as a permitted activity. In addition we support performance standards and criteria (see attached Schedules) for all zones except for GIZ and PORTZ;
- (b) <u>Supports</u> express provision in the Timaru District Plan for demolition of non-heritage buildings as a permitted activity in all zones where building activities are provided for as a permitted activity;

- (c) <u>Supports</u> Council retaining a degree of control over relocated buildings through the use of performance/permitted activity standard where relevant.
- (d) <u>Acknowledges</u> the submission by the Port company and notes that the Association's submission does not seek to override port specific activities – its focus is on the general residential and rural zones.

### 4.2 This evidence addresses:

- (a) The sequence of relocation of buildings;
- (b) Pre-Inspection/Reinstatement report;
- (c) Controls in other districts.
- (d) <u>Details</u> the relief sought refer Schedule 1 and 2.

## 5. Sequence of Relocation of Buildings

- 5.1 In the Industry we refer to *removal* (from a site), *relocation* (to a site) and *resiting* (within a site). The process and sequence of relocation is largely the same whether the building is a dwelling, or a non-habitable building (as in the Commercial Zone context).
- 5.2 The shifting of a typical building (both its removal, and the relocation) involves a series of steps, typically in this order:
  - (a) Land purchase for the destination (relocation) site.
  - (b) Building purchase. The building will have either been purchased privately or from a relocation company.
  - (c) Building consent obtained to relocate to the new location.
  - (d) Disconnection of services from the removal site (power, phone, gas, water, drainage).
  - (e) Removal of the building to its new site (or storage location) which may involve:
  - (f) Possible temporary structural bracing.

- (g) Possible cutting of the building into sections, depending on the size of the building.
- (h) Possible removal or partial roof removal (which requires tarpaulins).
- (i) Loading onto the transporter.
- (j) Securing to the transporter, lighting if night travel applicable.
- (k) Road transport requirements for over dimension loads, including:
  - Uplifting of any necessary approvals from roading authorities,
     NZTA, Police, Chorus, power companies, rail, any other utility companies.
  - Compliance with Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Land Transport Rule 2016). The rule covers the requirements for dimension and mass limits for heavy truck and trailer combinations to be operated on roads.
- (I) Placement of the building on the new site in its correct position in accordance with the building consent.
- (m) Unloading onto house/building jacks.
- (n) Installing foundations.
- (o) Placement of the building onto foundations.
- (p) Re-joining building sections, reinstatement of the roof, replacement of doors, windows, ceilings removed (as necessary).
- (q) Upgrading of ceiling or floor insulation (as necessary).
- (r) Connection of services (water, power, gas if available).
- (s) Installation of base boards, steps, decks and landings.
- (t) Any necessary remedial works, painting and decoration etc. (some can be done prior to relocation).
- (u) Driveway, fencing, footpath, garaging, and landscaping of the site.
- (v) Code of compliance certificate obtained under the Building Act 2004.

- 5.3 Time issues are important to both the removal, and the relocation. To be financially viable any project has to be done in a reasonable time frame.
- 5.4 Regardless of the size of the relocation job, a house mover will aim to do the removal and the relocation in the same movement. This is so that we don't have to end up storing the building in another site, or at a storage yard, and can shift it direct from the removal site to its final destination site.
- 5.5 If the building has to be stored between its removal from one site, and its relocation to another, then there is added cost and risk. There is added risk of damage from the rain or wind, particularly if the roof has been removed. There is added cost because there will be double handling.
- 5.6 If there is a delay at the relocation site caused by the need for a resource consent, or a hold-up in obtaining neighbours approvals, then this will increase the likelihood that the building may need to be stored, and increase the price.
- 5.7 In the ideal situation, foundations can be installed in one day, and the house or building lowered onto those foundations the next day. This assumes the building has shifted in one piece and has not had to be cut into pieces due to width restrictions.
- 5.8 If the building is large, has an irregular shape, or is wider than what the transport route will allow, then it is more likely that the building will need to be cut and shifted in sections, and then joined at the relocation/destination site. The building relocation company will join the sections of the building together on site.
- 5.9 Generally, the aim will be to get the building to the section around daybreak. The roof may have been lowered and covered with tarpaulins. Ideally neighbours will have been informed that the building is coming. This initial impact can be unexpected for neighbours. It can trigger calls to Councils. However, this is a temporary effect. Typically, within a number of days the building will have been placed on a new foundation, re-joined and the roof reinstated. Because of the risk of weather damage there is a strong incentive to have the roof reattached and the building closed in quickly. At this point the process will be a lot quicker than the average construction in situ.
- 5.10 With the building on site, and weathertight, owners generally do the finishing work themselves, although if the building needs re-roofing or a structural

alteration a Licenced Building Practitioner will be involved. Owners often redecorate the inside of the building themselves and also add value and save money by fitting the base boards, steps, decks, and completing any necessary external remedial works including painting if needed. Then comes the driveway, fencing, footpaths, garaging, and landscaping of the site.

- 5.11 Even allowing for a building being moved in sections, there is an obvious potential time advantage compared to in situ construction. My experience is that relocation will generally involve far less overall construction disturbance to the neighbourhood than the typical on-site construction of a new dwelling.
- 5.12 While the initial relocation to a site is typically more machinery intensive than construction of a new dwelling, the benefit is that the project can be substantially quicker. Any remedial or refurbishment work can begin on the home straight away (or even beforehand).
- 5.13 These time benefits also apply to prefabricated or transportable new dwellings, which are becoming more common. With a transportable new dwelling work at the factory can commence ahead of the issue of building consent for the destination site and there are lower on-site labour costs.
- 5.14 The Association and its members consider that there are also community benefits with building relocation, including reuse of the existing housing stock (both within a District and outside of it) and providing for peoples housing needs.
- 5.15 A typical relocated building can weigh anywhere between 15-70 tonnes. A typical 30–40-year-old wooden construction three-bedroom family house will weigh approximately 25 tonnes. Assuming each building relocated is 25 tonne, the Association estimates building relocation is the third biggest recycling industry nationally (by weight) after metals and paper. The diversity of the materials re-cycled is large. If a building is demolished, and landfilled, then only certain products are suitable for being recycled. In contrast, if a building is relocated nearly everything will be reused.

## 6. Pre-Inspection/ Reinstatement Report

6.1 A key aspect of the Association's contention that relocated buildings can be suitably managed with permitted activity status, is through the use of permitted activity standards including a pre-inspection/reinstatement report (a suggested template for which is attached to the Association's

submission).

6.2 Further to the proposed standards for controlled activity status in the PDP,

the report details in advance what reinstatement and upgrade work that

needs to be completed by the building owner within with 12 month

timeframe. I consider that this is a key addition to gaining compliance with

the outcome of a new building being reinstated into the new location.

6.3 Some Councils have adopted (or adapted) the Association's pre-inspection

report and have published their own version (for example, Hastings District,

Queenstown Lakes District).

6.4 The extra requirement of the pre-inspection report acts as a balance, and

means that the extra cost and administration required to get a resource

consent under controlled activity status is not required.

7. Other Territorial Authorities in New Zealand

7.1 Relocation of buildings is now typically a permitted activity in most Council

areas around New Zealand. Many have specific performance controls to

control reinstatement within specific time frame - while an equal number

have no specific controls aside from those on a new built in-situ building.

7.2 Because our members shift buildings both within and between districts the

Association seeks a general standardisation in approach unless there is a

compelling reason to depart from this for local environmental reasons.

7.3 There are other Council's that have within the last few years seen the

benefits of promoting the use of relocatable buildings as a cost-effective way

to provide housing and utility buildings by adopting permitted activity status

for those applications that meet the required standards. Areas that have

moved from a more restrictive regime to allowing permitted activity status

include New Plymouth and Central Hawkes Bay.

7.4 I encourage the Hearings Panel to unlock the benefits for the Timaru District

area by adopting similar planning controls into the District Plan.

Dated: 24 April 2025

Jonathan Bhana-Thomson

Chief Executive, New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association

**SCHEDULE 1: suggested drafting by House Movers** following *New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association Inc v The Central Otago District Council* (Environment Court, C45/2004)

insert permitted activity standards (or to same or similar effect):

- a. Any relocated building intended for use as a dwelling must have previously been designed, built and used as a dwelling.
- b. A building pre-inspection report shall accompany the application for a building consent for the destination site. That report is to identify all reinstatement works that are to be completed to the exterior of the building.
- c. The building shall be located on permanent foundations approved by building consent, no later than 2 months of the building being moved to the site.
- d. All other reinstatement work required by the building inspection report and the building consent to reinstate the exterior of any relocated dwelling shall be completed within 12 months of the building being delivered to the site. Without limiting (c) (above) reinstatement work is to include connections to all infrastructure services and closing in and ventilation of the foundations.
- e. The proposed owner of the relocated building must certify to the Council that the reinstatement work will be completed within the 12-month period.

## **SCHEDULE 2:**

**Relocated building pre-inspection report** (which may either be a non-statutory form, or prescribed in the plan, or to similar effect).

# Schedule 2 - proposed form of pre-inspection report







# **Building Pre-Inspection Report for Relocation**

New Location Address Region

For: Council Name

Date of report

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## **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A - PHOTOGRAPHS

### 1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1.1 Introduction

This Building Pre-Inspection report accurately records the external condition of the *dwelling house/garage/ancillary building* to be relocated and to establish all reinstatement works required to the exterior of the building after relocation to a workmanlike standard and to achieve a tidy appearance to meet requirements of the District Plan .

Limited inspection of the interior has been undertaken for the purpose of the Report.

The Report confirms whether the building is considered Safe and Sanitary.

The Report also identifies site-specific requirements including but not limited to the requirement for; the construction of the new foundations, new retaining walls, service connections, water and sewerage treatment (if applicable).

The Report must be read in conjunction with the condition table and photographs provided, which assist in providing a representation of the condition of the premises prior to the commencement of the relocation.

The Report has been prepared by *Name* of *Company Name* as per our instruction/agreement dated on behalf of our clients *Name* 

## 1.2 Applicants Contact Details

Applicant:	Applicant (clients) name
Contact address:	Contact address
Telephone:	
Email:	
Any Additional information:	

Agent:	Authorised agent
Contact address:	Contact address
Telephone:	
Email:	
Any Additional information:	

## 1.3 Building details

Type of building	Dwelling house, garage, ancillary building	
Approximate age of building:	Provide date range i.e. 1940-1950	
Brief Description:	Number of storeys, approximate size, roof, walls, floor construction, additional features	
Proposed site address:	Address of the intended site of the relocated building	
Site address where the building was inspected:	Address	
Proposed Use of Building	Dwelling house, residential garage, ancillary	
Previous Use of the Building	Relocated building must have been previously designed, built and used as a dwelling (Except previously used garage and ancillary buildings)	
Inspection Dates & Weather:	Date and weather at the time of inspection	
Inspection by:	Name of inspector	
Other persons present:	Name of other parties present	
Building Consent Status	Has Building Consent documentation been prepared for the relocation works.	

### 1.4 Reporting Conditions

This Report has been prepared under the following conditions of engagement:

- The survey is based on a visual inspection only; therefore it is not possible to guarantee
  that all concealed areas containing defects will be accessible (floor voids, roof voids,
  etc). No intrusive investigation will therefore be undertaken.
- Signs of water ingress will be searched for during the completion of the survey, however
  the Report cannot warrant that the building is free from water penetration, from defective
  roofing, cladding, rainwater goods, rising damp or the like unless evident at the time of
  our visual survey.
- Only areas where safe access is possible have been inspected.
- The Report is provided for the use of the client identified in section 1.1 and the council and may not be used by others without written permission. The writer of this report accepts no liability to third parties who may act on the report.
- This Report must be read in conjunction with photograph and condition tables provided.
- This Report is for the purposes of the District Plan. The Report also requires a safe and sanitary declaration for the purposes of the Building Act 2004.

### 1.5 Exclusions

This report **does not** include comment about the following:

- a) The structure of the building unless otherwise commented upon;
- b) The surrounding neighbourhood;
- c) The value of the property;
- d) Illegal Works; and
- e) Internal condition of the building unless otherwise commented upon.

Additionally, no search has been made of:

- f) Local Authority rates;
- g) Government Valuation; or
- h) LIM or PIM reports.

#### 1.6 Definitions

The following defines the condition comments of the elements surveyed:

Good: Items that have suffered minimal weathering, wear or decay and are free from

any visual defects.

Reasonable: Items that have worn through 'normal' use and weathering, and is in

commensurate condition to the building age and use.

Poor: Items that are worn, decayed or weathered either due to the age, abnormal

use or lack of maintenance.

## 1.7 Areas Accessed

## Example:

The external envelope of the subject building viewed from ground floor level and where safely accessed by ladder from ground level.

Internally, our inspection was limited to those parts of the buildings that could be safely accessed and a head and shoulders inspection of the roof space.

Access was gained into the subfloor space....

### 2.0 MANDATORY CONDITION TABLE

	RMA 1991 – Mandatory External Reinstatement				
Item	Construction Element	Description	Condition	Required Upgrades & Comments	Photograph
1	Roof	Corrugated iron/fibre cement sheet, concrete tile, metal tile, butynol membrane, other	Good/Reasonable/ Poor	None/ Repaint/ Re-roof etc	Insert multiple photographs if/as required under any of the below sub-headings.
2	Spouting and Downpipes	PVC, metal, butynol membrane, other	Good/Reasonable/ Poor	None/ Repaint/ Replace etc  Example: Repair all timber fascias, barges as well as rainwater goods to ensure surface moisture discharges into new Council approved outlet at new site location.	

### 2.0 MANDATORY CONDITION TABLE

	RMA 1991 – Mandatory External Reinstatement				
Item	Construction Element	Description	Condition	Required Upgrades & Comments	Photograph
3	Wall Cladding	Fibre cement weatherboard/sheet, timber weatherboard, Board and batten, metal sidings, other	Good/Reasonable/ Poor	None/ Repaint/ Replace etc	BANKE TRADE
4	Foundation cladding	NA	NA	Foundation cladding is to be installed as specified in the Building Consent	
5	Window and Door Joinery	Powder coated aluminium, timber, steel, single glazed, double glazed	Good/Reasonable/ Poor	None/ Install new joinery/Repair and redecorate existing joinery  Example: Repair and repaint window and door joinery. Replace all broken glass immediately after relocation.	

#### 3.0 BUILDING ACT REQUIREMENTS

This Report is for purposes required by the District Plan. It is not a report to address matters required by the Building Act.

A building consent is required for the relocation of this building and all subsequent works as a consequence. The building work must be designed and undertaken by Licensed Building Practitioners with the appropriate category of licence (certain homeowner exemptions <u>may</u> apply). This Pre-inspection Report must be submitted to council with an application for building consent.

The building consent documents must be provided to council along with the appropriate fees and proof of ownership (Certificate of Title less than 3 months old or sale and purchase agreement for the proposed site).

The site specifics must be appropriately designed to include foundations, considering, layout, sizing, position, bracing, ventilation, access etc.

### 4.1 SAFE AND SANITARY

Comment is required.

Licensed Building Practitioner <u>MUST</u> give a declaration regarding whether the building is/isn't Safe and Sanitary.

Note:

If the building is not considered safe and sanitary then give reasons. (example: evidence of leaky building)

## 4.2 HEALTH & SAFETY

Set out below is a description of the health and safety concerns identified.

#### Example:

Building materials identified are suspected to contain asbestos. This includes, but not limited to fibre cement claddings, vinyl flooring and soffit linings. Asbestos is relatively safe when encapsulated, but is dangerous to health when fibres become air borne. This can occur when the building materials are damaged or become degraded.

No specialist laboratory testing has been carried out to confirm the presence or absence of asbestos or any other material hazardous to health. All comments are based upon a visual inspection only.

It is recommended that a specialist asbestos surveyor be instructed to identify the risks present.

### 5.0 ESTIMATE OF COSTS OF EXTERNAL REINSTATEMENT WORKS

The estimate of costs of external reinstatement works is the sum of [ to insert ]

Note:

Allow a contingency sum for any damage in transit

"Reinstatement Works" means the extent of the work required to the exterior of the Relocated Building as specified in the Building Pre-Inspection Report for the purposes of the District Plan. The exterior reinstatement works will not include matters regulated by the building legislation or connection to foundations; but may include matters required by the District Plan for work to be undertaken and completed to the exterior of the building to a workmanlike standard and to achieve a tidy appearance, including, without limitation:

- (a) Repair of broken windows and window frames;
- (b) Repair of rotten weatherboards or other damaged wall cladding;
- (c) Necessary replacement or repair of roof materials;
- (d) Cleaning and/or painting of the exterior where necessary e.g. roof, walls, window frames etc;
- (e) Repair of transit damage; and/or
- (f) Replacement and painting of baseboards or other foundation cladding.

## 6.0 LICENSED BUILDING PRACTITIONER SIGNATURE

**Author** 

Signed:

I, certify that the information provided is true and correct and that the building described above appears to have applied with the relevant Building Regulations at the time of its construction, and (if a dwelling) the building has been previously designed, built and used as a dwelling (Except previously used garage and ancillary buildings).

**Peer Reviewer** 

If undertaken/available

	Qualifications LBP Category, BOINZ, RICS, NZIBS, ANZIA etc		
	For and On Behalf of Company Name		
	Address	Inspectors business address	
	Telephone	Telephone business number	
	Email	Email business address	
7.0	OWNER DECLARATION		
As a re	quirement of the [insert council name] District P CERTIFY that I/we will ensure	Plan/Resource Consent, I/wee that within 12 months from the building being	
	ed to site the buildings external reinstatement, in it is on of foundations, and connections to services	nsulation, heating, infrastructure, closing in,	
Table' r under th	wledge that failure to complete any mandatory relating to the reinstatement of the building may ne Building Act 2004, or Resource Management ment notice, abatement notice, enforcement or	lead to council taking enforcement action at Act 1991, including by way of a notice to fix,	
Signed:	(PRINT).		
Owner			
Signed:	(PRINT).		
Owner			
Signed:	(PRINT).		
Owner			

Elevation description i.e. Front Elevation	Elevation description i.e. Rear Elevation	Elevation description
Elevation description	Elevation description	Elevation description

Elevation description	Elevation description	Elevation description
Elevation description	Elevation description	Elevation description

# Additional Comments and Notes