



Sustainable Management of Historic Heritage Guidance

Information Sheet 1

Principles for Assessing appropriate or inappropriate Subdivision, Use and Development on Historic Heritage Values

The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is a matter of national importance under the RMA. Inappropriate subdivision, use and development will undermine the identification, appreciation, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand.

The following general principles should be used to guide any assessment of subdivision, use and development. The principles are based on the Historic Places Act 1993, the Resource Management Act 1991, the ICOMOS NZ Charter, and the Policy for Government Department's Management of Historic Heritage 2004.

1. Respect values

Recognising the lasting values of the place or area and evidence of the origins and development of New Zealand's distinct peoples and society.

2. Diversity and Community Resources

Recognising the diverse cultures of New Zealand and the diverse social and physical environments and communities. There is a need to work with communities and take into account the needs, abilities and resources of particular communities, including owners of historic heritage and other stakeholders.

3. Sustainability

Recognising the finite nature of historic heritage and the need to take a precautionary approach in order to safeguard the options for present and future generations. Promoting sustainability may include encouraging regular maintenance and finding compatible uses for places, including original and new adaptive uses.

4. Maori heritage

Recognising and providing for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga following the spirit and intent of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

5. Research and documentation

Ensuring interventions are informed by sufficient research, documentation and recording, where culturally appropriate. All changes should be fully documented in drawings and photographs.

6. Respect for physical material

The degree to which interventions involve the least possible loss of heritage significance and the least loss of material of heritage value, including those arising from irreversible or cumulative effects. This may be achieved by promoting appropriate regular maintenance, repair (rather than replacement), repairing in compatible materials, respecting the patina of age, and making new work reversible.

7. Understanding significance

Whether the values of the place are clearly understood before decisions are taken that may result in change. Decision making, where change is being contemplated, should take into account all relevant values, cultural knowledge and disciplines. Understanding significance should be assisted by methods such as the preparation of heritage assessments and conservation plans.

8. Respect for contents, curtilage and setting

The extent to which interventions respect the contents and surroundings associated with the place. This may be achieved by ensuring, for example, that any alterations and additions to buildings, and new adjacent buildings, are compatible in terms of design, proportions, scale and materials.

Source: NZHPT, *Sustainable Management of Historic Heritage Guidance Series*, Discussion Paper No.1, Historic Heritage Principles and Issues, 3 August 2007

The NZHPT welcomes any feedback and comments on this information sheet.

Comments can be provided to information@historic.org.nz. (Attention: Sustainable Heritage Guidance)