



Sustainable Management of Historic Heritage Guidance

Information Sheet 18

Assessing Impacts on Places and Areas of Significance to Maori

Principles

The protection of places and areas of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu, is a matter of national importance. The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi will be relevant with regard to sites of significance to Maori and wahi tapu.

The protection and physical conservation of places and areas of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu, is paramount.

Wherever possible, the destruction, damage or modification of places and areas of significance to Maori and wahi tapu places or areas should be discouraged and avoided.

If the site is also an archaeological site, integration with archaeological authority processes under the Historic Places Act 1993 is an important consideration when assessing effects involving places and areas of significance to Maori under the RMA. The applicant should be informed at any early stage, that an authority from the NZHPT may be required.

If the site is registered as a wahi tapu area, the consultation procedure under section 33A of the Historic Places Act 1993 is relevant.

Checklist for assessing potential for damage to places and areas of significance to Maori

- The proposed activity should be designed in partnership and consultation with the tangata whenua.
- The proposed activity should be designed to avoid all known places and areas of significance to Maori where possible by encouraging consideration of alternative development locations and including the provision of protective buffer areas.
- The proposed activity should comply with any relevant comment or recommendation provided to the local authority by the Maori Heritage Council under sections 32 and 33A of the Historic Places Act 1993.
- The proposed activity should not damage an archaeological site or place or area of significance to Maori or their context in a wider historic landscape.
- The proposed activity should be subject to a Maori values assessment or cultural heritage impact assessment.

- If relevant, the proposed activity must be authorised by an archaeological authority issued by the NZHPT under the Historic Places Act 1993. An archaeological assessment must be prepared according to the NZHPT's guidelines.
- The proposed activity should mitigate or remedy any damage to any significant sites that have been damaged from past earthworks, construction of structures and buildings or natural erosion.
- The proposed activity should achieve positive heritage outcomes and provisions including the use of a covenant to protect significant places and areas.

Source: NZHPT, *Sustainable Management of Historic Heritage Guidance Series*, Discussion Paper No.2, Assessment of Effects on the Historic Environment, 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)