



Proposed Plan [Version 2.0]
HISTORIC HERITAGE

Introduction

This information sheet outlines Version 2.0 of the Proposed Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan's content in relation to heritage features and historic sites in the region's coastal environment.

It is one of a series of information sheets outlining various aspects of the Proposed Plan that has been amended by Council's decisions on submissions previously lodged by people interested in future management of the Hawke's Bay coast.

What is 'historic heritage'?

Historic heritage generally means any natural or physical resource that contributes to New Zealand's history and cultures. These may include:-

- historic sites, structures, places and areas;
- archaeological sites; and
- sites of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu.

Why is historic heritage covered?

In 2003, the Resource Management Act (the RMA) was amended. Those amendments now require all regional, city and district councils to recognise and provide for the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, as a matter of national importance.

Hawke's Bay's coastal heritage

In Hawke's Bay, coastal resources have historically attracted settlement near the coast. Those settlements have since contributed to Hawke's Bay's historic heritage which includes archaeological sites, historic places, historic areas, shipwrecks, remains of old whaling stations, buildings and structures, as well as natural features of historic and cultural significance.

Both identified and unidentified historic heritage within the coastal environment can be affected by inappropriate subdivision, land uses and development.

Who does what?

In relation to planning for the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment, most responsibilities lie with regional, city and district councils and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT).

Hawke's Bay Regional Council's responsibilities include managing all activities in the coastal marine area (ie: all coastal areas below mean high water springs as far as 22.2km offshore). This includes controlling activities in the coastal marine area that may destroy, damage, or disturb any foreshore or seabed in a way that may have an impact on historic heritage.

Responsibilities of city and district councils include controlling the effects of land use activities in their districts (ie: above mean high water springs). These controls in district plans can be for historic heritage protection purposes.

NZHPT's general role is as an advocate for the conservation and protection of historic heritage. The NZHPT also has a regulatory role for administering and enforcing provisions of the Historic Places Act. Under this Act, all archaeological sites (including previously unrecorded sites), cannot be destroyed or damaged without prior authority from the NZHPT. The NZHPT also maintains a register of wahi tapu, historic buildings, sites, and areas – the vast majority of which are to be found on land and not within the coastal marine area.

What does the Proposed Plan cover?

The RMA requires that historic heritage resources should be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The Proposed Plan would not be consistent with the RMA and national policies for coastal management, if it failed to do so.

District plans are the appropriate planning documents for ensuring protection of historic heritage resources on land, but the Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan (Ver2.0) recognises the importance of retaining diverse and representative examples of significant historic heritage resources located within the coastal marine area (*refer to Chapter 7 of the Proposed Plan for more information*).

Rule 130 of the Proposed Plan specifically deals with controlling disturbances of the foreshore or seabed that may affect historic heritage features identified in the Plan.

As rules in the Proposed Plan control activities affecting historic heritage features only in the coastal marine area, the types of heritage features identified include shipwrecks, wharves, wahi tapu, and remains of whaling stations, Maori pa and middens.

Schedule I of the Proposed Plan lists recorded historic heritage features located within the coastal marine area. The approximate locations of these features are identified on the planning maps. Schedule I includes grid coordinates of these features.

Council's decisions on submissions issued in July 2008 resulted in three additional historic heritage features being added to Schedule I. All three new features were located within the coastal marine area, although there are many other features existing beyond the CMA which are controlled by other agencies.

Decisions Issued

The period for making submissions has closed. The Regional Council has issued its decisions on the 200+ submissions received. Those decisions were issued on 19 July 2008. The Proposed Plan is deemed to be amended by those decisions from that date.

All submitters have the right to lodge an appeal with the Environment Court if they are not satisfied with Council's decision on their submission(s).

Once the Proposed Plan is beyond challenge (ie: no appeals remain unresolved), the Council may then make the Proposed Plan 'operative' with approval from the Minister of Conservation.

Further details on what appeals have been lodged and what provisions those appeals relate to, can be found at www.hbrc.govt.nz

Further Information

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