

## Heritage engagement survey feedback

Email to [district.plan@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:district.plan@wcc.govt.nz)

On: <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/district-plan/2024-district-plan/heritage-engagement>

Historic Places Wellington (HPW), a membership organisation, makes some general comments on your heritage buildings, structures and areas surveys.

We strongly agree that heritage items contribute to Wellington's unique identity, which has a lot of heritage as it's New Zealand's earliest established city. Its status as Capital city means it has an unusually large number of significant buildings from different eras reflecting different styles and traditions.

The Wellington Heritage Festival over the last several years has increased its number of events, and participants have grown significantly; and HPW's experience through our Facebook engagement ( <https://www.facebook.com/historicplaceswellington> ) is that Wellingtonians highly value the diversity that heritage buildings add to our city.

In our view, the current level of heritage protection in Wellington adequately balances the need to protect historic heritage with the need for economic growth and development. There was a very long time (10+ years) between District Plan reviews when no heritage was added to the Schedule. In the recent plan some heritage was added to the schedule; such as the oil tank in Miramar, that we didn't support - in our view such items negatively affected public perceptions about heritage. We proposed several buildings for listing that weren't progressed by the council. (HPW's submission on the District Plan, 2022 contains our comprehensive views on the importance of heritage to an attractive and affordable city. <https://historicplaceswellington.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/hpw-submission-on-wellington-pdp-contact.pdf> ) HPW would welcome an opportunity to work closer with the council on heritage.

In terms of private property, HPW is concerned about transfers of property from an owner that supported the heritage listing to new owners who don't, but may have profited from purchasing the building with its heritage listing. They may then ask the council to delist it so they can demolish it. We would support more help to heritage- listed building owners, such as rates rebates; and we were strong supporters of the Built Heritage Incentive Fund, which previously helped owners obtain earthquake strengthening assessments.

On Heritage structures, we would expect many are owned by the council as they are often on public land. We generally support their listing as they add to public amenity, historical awareness and are sometimes quirky, interesting and attractive.

This document from Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga contains case studies about the importance of heritage to an attractive and affordable city: <https://hnzpt-rpod-assets.azureedge.net/l4sdy5ir/saving-the-town.pdf>

Felicity Wong

Chairperson

Historic Places Wellington

<https://historicplaceswellington.org/>