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Hutt City Council
30 Laings Road
Lower Hutt

By email: district.plan@huttcity.govt.nz

Submission on the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan

1. This is a submission by Virginia Saunderson on the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan 2025.
2. My email address for service is ginny.saunderson@gmail.com.
3. I can not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
4. The specific provisions of the proposal that our submission relates to, our submission on those provisions, and the decisions we seek are shown in the below table. We also seek all further, alternative, necessary, or consequential relief as may be necessary to fully achieve the relief sought in this submission.
5. I do not wish to be heard in support of this submission.
6. If others make a similar submission, I will not consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

Introduction

7. In my opinion it is vitally important to preserve areas of historical significance for all people. Unfortunately for Māori this has been made much more difficult due to the loss and degradation of their land in areas where they traditionally lived, gathered resources, and practiced traditional customs. This has made it more difficult for them to pass on traditional knowledge and history through generations. It is important to preserve these sites for future generations and the preservation of history.

There are examples where developers and mana whenua have worked together to achieve both parties' aims and I believe the inclusion of Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori in the Lower Hutt District Plan will allow that sort of outcome and ensure no further loss of access to these sites for mana whenua.

I believe that The Treaty of Waitangi promised the protection of taonga (sites where food and resources were gathered and traditions were practiced) and we should honour that promise. Including the SASMs in the district plan allows the Council to work in partnership with iwi in the spirit of The Treaty of Waitangi.

My understanding of the purpose of the SASMs is to encourage developers to work with mana whenua to acknowledge the significance of the site to Māori through design principles, signage or naming, but this is not compulsory and will not stifle development. It will also protect archaeological material that might be unearthed in the development process and alerts potential developers of the likelihood of finding archaeological material on the site so they can develop a process and plan for that eventuality.

Finally mana whenua will not have any rights or access to privately owned properties under the proposed SASM provisions.

I am a pākehā property owner in Eastbourne and I am dismayed by the misinformation being spread about this proposal, and wholeheartedly support the SASM provision in the District Plan.

Comment

8. I support the inclusion of the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASM's) chapter in the proposed Lower Hutt District Plan 2025. The key issue with the current plan is that it does not include all sites and areas of significance to Māori, and this limits the plan's ability to protect these sites
9. I believe it is essential that the proposed District Plan identifies and protects sites and areas of significance to Māori, and I am pleased to see the Hutt City Council taking steps to acknowledge and safeguard these important places.

Yours faithfully,

Virginia Saunderson

Decisions Requested

Chapter: SASM – Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori			
Provision	Position	Reasons	Relief Sought
Whole Chapter	Support	<p>The sites and areas listed in SCHED6 have been identified with the guidance and direction of Mana Whenua. In addition to these sites, the chapter also recognises the significance of marae, waterways, and the harbour islands.</p> <p>The categories listed in SCHED6 provide an appropriate framework for determining the importance of these sites.</p> <p>I agree that the provisions of the chapter should apply to the use, development, and activities within the extent of the identified sites.</p> <p>I support the objectives, policies, rules, and standards proposed in the chapter. I believe they offer an appropriate level of recognition and protection for the SASMs, while still enabling land development and respecting the rights of landowners to develop their land as they wish.</p>	I recommend keeping the chapter as it is written.