

12 April 2022

Barbara West

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Barbara

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 14 March 2022 for information regarding the Hutt City Council's heritage policy. Specifically, you have asked for the following information:

- *All information on technical assessment(s) carried out in the last 24 months to identify heritage buildings, sites and areas in Hutt City that may be considered for inclusion in the district plan;*
- *All information on the technical experts and heritage specialists engaged (internal and external to the Council) for the purposes of carrying out the technical assessments;*
- *All existing documents, records and photographs on which the above research has been based;*
- *All information on how the Council defines and determines 'significant historic heritage values';*
- *All information, including processes used, to carry out field work to verify the above research.*

By way of background, all councils are required by the Resource Management Act (RMA) to review the contents of their district plans at least every 10 years. The RMA also requires councils to protect historic heritage as a matter of national importance. In addition, Policy 21 of the Wellington Regional Policy Statement requires all councils in the Wellington region to identify significant historic heritage.

The Hutt City Council is currently undertaking a review of its district plan. As part of this review, we will ensure that structures and buildings with notable historic heritage values are identified and listed in the revised plan. This ensures that they will be managed, preserved and conserved for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Lower Hutt's draft district plan will be released for public consultation in due course, with final decisions on heritage designations made following this engagement.

More information about the district plan review is available on the Council's website [here](#). Information about heritage aspects of the district plan can be found [here](#), and Hutt City Council's Heritage Policy is available [here](#).

If you own a property that has been identified as being a potential heritage building, I recommend you contact the Heritage Review Team at heritagereview@huttcity.govt.nz to discuss any questions you have about your property. The Council is not able to provide you with information about property owned by other parties.

Our responses to your specific requests are provided below.

All information on technical assessment(s) carried out in the last 24 months to identify heritage buildings, sites and areas in Hutt City that may be considered for inclusion in the district plan;

The heritage specialists have used documents, photographs and maps to research and identify heritage values in the city. As they are independent from Council, the selection of the documents chosen to inform this work is not fully known to the Council. Accordingly, your request for this information is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA, on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the local authority and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—

- (i) held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation; or
- (ii) Connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation:

All information on the technical experts and heritage specialists engaged (internal and external to the Council) for the purposes of carrying out the technical assessments;

Heritage specialists from WSP New Zealand and Ian Bowman, Architect and architectural conservator, have been commissioned to carry out the assessments. Further information on their expertise and qualifications is available on their company websites. As this is already publicly available, Section 17(d) of the LGOIMA applies.

All existing documents, records and photographs on which the above research has been based;

As indicated previously, the resources used to research each property is only known conclusively to the heritage specialists who undertook the work. Accordingly, your request for this information is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA.

All information on how the Council defines and determines 'significant historic heritage values';

Policy 21 of the Wellington Regional Policy Statement requires all councils in the region to identify significant historic heritage using its prescribed criteria. These criteria are:

- Historic Values: these relate to the history of a place and how it demonstrates important historical themes, events, people, or experiences
- Physical Values: these values relate to the physical evidence present
- Social Values: these values relate to the meanings that a place has for a particular community or communities
- Tangata Whenua Values: the place is sacred or important to Māori for spiritual, cultural or historical reasons
- Surroundings: the setting or context of the place contributes to an appreciation and understanding of its character, history and/or development
- Rarity: the place is unique or rare within the district or region
- Representativeness: the place is a good example of its type or era

These criteria are based on the Resource Management Act' definition of historic heritage:

(a) those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities:

(i) archaeological:

(ii) architectural:

(iii) cultural:

(iv) historic:

(v) scientific:

(vi) technological; and

(b) includes—

(i) historic sites, structures, places, and areas; and

(ii) archaeological sites; and

(iii) sites of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu; and

(iv) surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources

All information, including processes used, to carry out field work to verify the above research.

The Council does not hold information about the processes used by the heritage specialists who undertook the field work. Accordingly, your request for this information is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA. However, an overview of the general process that the Hutt City Council will be following for reviewing its district plan's heritage property listing is available on the Council's website [here](#), in the Frequently Asked Questions section.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales

Senior Advisor Official Information and Privacy