

Part 7 - Heritage

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7.1 Introduction

The islands have a rich legacy of widely appreciated heritage resources, both natural and physical. The council has a responsibility to recognise and provide for these heritage resources for the experience and enjoyment of current and future generations. It also has a duty to preserve the intrinsic values and finite characteristics of these heritage resources from activities that may have an adverse effect on them and their values. These resources cover a wide spectrum - from sites of ecological significance, heritage buildings and geological features to sites of high archaeological value. The Plan addresses the heritage conservation and protection issues principally by detailed investigation, accurate identification and regulatory protection through scheduling.

7.2 Resource management issues

Heritage resources are an essential part of the cultural values of the islands. They serve to link successive generations. Their retention adds to the cultural experience and is part of an essential framework that helps inspire and bind the community. Heritage resources help create a sense of place, engender a sense of belonging and their retention can also promote economic benefits.

Considerable heritage resources are located within the islands. As a matter of national importance the council is required to recognise and provide for them. The purpose of protecting heritage resources in the Plan is to recognise associated heritage values, manage the effects of land use on heritage and to encourage protection of these values through appropriate techniques.

The Plan must therefore provide for the protection of a number of heritage resources. To achieve this the Plan must, within the broad purpose of the RMA:

- identify and evaluate those heritage resources worthy of preservation, and
- adopt suitable measures to secure the preservation of the identified heritage resources.

Heritage resources can be put into three broad groupings - natural, cultural and scientific resources. This is illustrated in figure 7.1. There is some overlap between the groupings.

7.2.1 Natural resources

The islands are appreciated for their unique natural qualities which contribute to their regional, national and international significance. These qualities include ecologically significant sites for both flora and fauna, individual and groups of trees and the remnants of past volcanic activity. Many of these natural resources have been depleted by a variety of land uses, especially in the inner islands. In order that these unique natural resources are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations, they must be adequately and appropriately protected. In doing so a balance must be struck between the need for total protection and the economic and social needs of the islands' communities.

Principal issue

How to ensure that ecologically significant sites and notable trees which have been depleted by a variety of land uses will be adequately protected by the Plan.

7.2.2 Cultural resources

7.2.2.1 Heritage sites

There are significant Maori and European archaeological and Maori heritage sites in the islands. Many of these have not been accurately identified in the past in previous planning documents. Also, surface evidence may be obscure, or absent and many sites are fragile and susceptible to damage. Heritage sites have therefore been at risk due to poor identification, lack of awareness by property owners that their properties may contain heritage resources and their fragile nature. This means that they may be inadvertently damaged or destroyed.

Principal issue

How to ensure that where the preservation of cultural resources can be ensured and disclosure will not put the items at risk, that they are adequately protected through the Plan.

7.2.2.2 Heritage buildings, objects, properties and places of special value

There are a limited number of heritage buildings, objects, properties and places in the islands.

However, those that remain are an important cultural link to the past and provide a unique, non renewable resource that should be protected and conserved for present and future generations. Most heritage buildings or objects are in private ownership. The susceptibility to change through neglect, decay or their partial or total destruction means these heritage resources are at risk.

Principal issue

How to provide mechanisms in the Plan to encourage and promote the conservation of identified heritage resources, while avoiding the diminution or loss of the resource.

7.2.3 Scientific resources

The islands abound with a rich variety of geological and archaeological features. Many of these have particular scientific and educational value. As such, they can provide important scientific and educational information for future generations. Scientific resources have been at risk due to poor identification, lack of awareness by property owners that their properties may contain heritage resources and their fragile nature. This means that some of these scientific resources may be inadvertently damaged or destroyed.

Principal issue

How to ensure that scientific heritage resources are adequately protected by the Plan.

7.3 Objective

To recognise and protect heritage resources of natural, cultural and scientific value.

Policies

1. By identifying, assessing and scheduling significant heritage resources in the Plan.
2. By controlling the use and development of natural and physical resources in a manner that preserves and protects the scheduled heritage resource, and its scheduled site surrounds.

7.4 Resource management strategy

The principal strategy is to systematically identify, evaluate and protect significant heritage resources, predominantly by scheduling them.

7.4.1 Scheduling

As part of its role in the preservation, protection and conservation of its valued features in the islands' environment, the Plan identifies certain natural, cultural and scientific resources as being significant and worthy of protection. These items are listed in **appendix 1 - Heritage schedules for the inner islands** and **appendix 2 - Heritage schedules for the outer islands**.

7.4.2 Other heritage protection methods

The council uses other methods for maintenance and protection of its heritage resource, such as subdivisions which protect significant environmental features, heritage orders, education, advocacy, economic incentives and land acquisition. It is noted that the rules are focussed on sites and features that have been identified, assessed and scheduled. There may be other sites and features which are not known to council but which are identified under a particular land use proposal and are deserving of consideration under the RMA. The extent to which such sites and features may be relevant will depend on the nature of any proposed land use and any resource consent that may be required for that land use.

7.4.3 Subdivision

Part 12 - Subdivision controls the subdivision of sites that contain heritage features. It is also noted that within particular land units the council may consent to subdivision of land to create lots that will protect significant environment features. This approach is also outlined in **part 12 - Subdivision**.

7.4.4 Heritage assessments

At the time of notification of the Plan it was not possible to identify and assess the heritage items for all the islands. Therefore no new heritage items have been identified for the following:

- All the outer islands

- Inner islands
 - Archaeology - Ponui, Motuihe, Pakihi, Rangitoto, Motutapu, the Noises and Browns Island (Motukorea) and Karamuramu.
 - Buildings, objects, properties and places - Ponui, Pakihi, Motuihe, Browns Island (Motukorea), Motutapu, Pakatoa and Karamuramu.
 - Ecology - Ponui, Pakihi and Karamuramu.
 - Geology - Ponui, Pakihi, Motutapu, the Noises and Karamuramu.
 - Trees - Pakatoa, Ponui, Pakihi, Motuihe, Browns Island (Motukorea), Rangitoto, Motutapu, Rakino, the Noises and Karamuramu.

Any heritage items on these islands which were scheduled in the previous district plan have been carried over without further detailed evaluation.

A variation or plan change will be introduced to the Plan so that additional heritage resources on these islands will be recognised and protected in the future. As noted in clause 7.13 no Maori heritage sites have been identified.

7.5 Roles and responsibilities

Section 6 of the RMA states the matters of national importance that must be recognised and provided for by all persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA. These matters of national importance have considerable significance in relation to heritage issues and provide direction on heritage protection. The council is also a heritage protection authority under section 187 of the RMA and under the Reserves Act 1977, as is the ARC.

Some heritage resources, particularly geological features, are located below mean high water springs and therefore fall within the ARC's authority. Some of the heritage diagrams in **appendix 1 - Heritage schedules for the inner islands** and **appendix 2 - Heritage schedules for the outer islands** may include part of the item which extends below mean high water springs and is therefore outside the jurisdiction for which this Plan applies. Any areas below mean high water springs are indicative only and are shown for information purposes only.

The role of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust relates to the recognition, protection and promotion of New Zealand's historic and cultural heritage. Their role is outlined in the Historic Places Act 1993.

The Department of Conservation is primarily responsible for managing the natural and historic heritage resources located within the crown owned estate under the Conservation Act 1987, the Reserves Act 1977 and Wildlife Act 1953. Significant parts of the islands are located within the conservation estate administered by DOC. DOC also has roles and responsibilities for heritage resources located within the coastal marine area.

The appendices of scheduled items include some areas within the DOC estate. This scheduling in the Plan does not seek to supplant the role of DOC as a consent authority for these areas. Instead it establishes a coherent, comparative level of evaluation of these items in exactly the same manner as occurs for heritage items outside DOC estate.

7.6 Notification requirements for restricted discretionary activities

Within this part of the Plan, except as provided for by section 94C(2) of the RMA, applications for a resource consent for restricted discretionary activities will be considered without public notification or the need to obtain written approval of or serve notice on affected persons (in accordance with section 94D(2) and (3) of the RMA).

7.7 Types of heritage items

The specific provisions for each of the heritage types are set out in separate topics in this part of the Plan as follows:

- archaeological sites
- buildings, objects, properties and places of special value
- conservation areas
- ecologically significant sites

- geological items
- Maori heritage sites
- trees.

Amendment to Figure 7.1 Heritage resources

Amend the text as follows:

| Archaeological Maori and European Heritage