

Adopted Assessment Criteria – August 2008

Administration of the Heritage Assistance Fund

Issue

The District Plan contains the following methods in section 214.5.9 Heritage Resources.

- .10 *Establish a District heritage assistance fund to provide financial assistance for resource consents required under the District Plan and to encourage other conservation work. These funds are administered by the Heritage Committee.*
- .11 *Provide regular advice clinics by people with heritage conservation expertise, on heritage conservation generally.*

Background

We have a range of heritage resources in the district for which the Plan provides rules to ensure their protection.

The following criteria are to be used when a written application is lodged with Council for the Heritage Assistance Fund.

The Heritage Assistance Fund provides applicants who have been granted resource consent the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to put toward resource consent fees or advice of a qualified heritage architect or professional, where there is a demonstrable public good component.

The Heritage Assistance Fund will also provide an opportunity for applicants who have been granted resource consent for maintenance work on Notable Trees listed in the District Plan, to apply for financial assistance to put toward resource consent fees or advice of a qualified arborist or tree surgeon.

Budget

A budget has, and continues to be, provided each year (currently \$15,000) specifically for Heritage Assistance. Staff have recommended that the Heritage Assistance Fund continues to be provided in subsequent LTCCP's as part of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Activity Plan budget.

Application Process

A written application for funding shall be submitted following the resource consent being granted by Council.

The applicant will be required to fill out the standard application form (with supporting documents attached) and lodge it with Council to be assessed and decided on by the Development Planning Manager.

The application shall include all of the following:

- A description of the site and the proposed work (this may include plans and assessment of environmental effects which were included as part of the resource consent application for which consent has been granted or specialist report required), and
- A formal request for the monetary amount being applied for, accompanied by the appropriate invoices (for resource consent fees or costs of specialist reports required as part of the resource consent application)
- Explanation of the reasons for this request, including the public benefit from the work proposed, and
- Written comment/recommendation provided by the appropriate Community Board.

Criteria

1. Assistance may be granted for the following costs of any resource consent application for:
 - The processing costs of the resource consent application. Consideration will be given to the extent to which the public will benefit from the proposed work.
 - The costs of specialist reports related to the resource consent application. Consideration will be given to the extent to which the public will benefit from the proposed development.
- (i) Assistance for work on sites listed in the Thames-Coromandel District Plan Heritage Register will only be granted towards the actual costs of:
 - A heritage assessment prepared by a qualified heritage architect or professional in order to demonstrate maintenance and enhancement of heritage values,
or
 - The processing costs associated with the public good component of a development (the public good component should be directly related to maintaining and enhancing heritage values).
- (ii) Assistance for development on sites in Heritage Policy Areas will only be granted towards:
 - A heritage assessment prepared by a qualified heritage architect or professional in order to demonstrate maintenance and enhancement of heritage values,
or
 - The processing costs associated with the public good component of a development (the public good component should be directly related to maintaining and enhancing heritage values).

- (iii) Assistance for work on trees listed in the Thames Coromandel District Plan Notable Tree Register will only be granted towards the actual costs of:
 - An assessment prepared by a suitably qualified arborist or tree surgeon in order to demonstrate maintenance required, or
 - The resource consent processing costs associated with the public good component of the work (the public good component should be directly related to maintaining and enhancing the health of the notable tree or trees).
- 2. The Heritage Fund may provide contributions up to a maximum of 50 percent of the costs described in 1. above and/or up to a maximum \$2000, whichever is less. Funding will be subject to availability.
- 3. Under special circumstance the Development Planning Manager may recommend an application requesting funding for more than \$2000 to the Policy and Planning Committee for decision.
- 4. Assistance shall not be provided for:
 - Site development
 - New Building construction
 - Physical works on the site
- 5. Funding may be used by Council to offer professional, pre-application advice on heritage restoration, conservation work or tree assessments to property owners. Such assistance would be offered only at the discretion of the Development Planning Manager and Council has the opportunity to recommend a suitably qualified professional to provide such advice.

Rationale

The Heritage Fund will assist in achieving the objectives and policies for Heritage Resources.

214.3 OBJECTIVE:

To conserve, protect and enhance the buildings, items, streetscapes, trees, landscape features, archaeological sites and Wahi Tapu, which are of recognised significant cultural, historic, architectural, aesthetic, scientific or special heritage value in the District and to ensure that new works do not compromise those values.

214.4 POLICIES:

- .1 *To provide for the effective protection of objects, sites, places and buildings with heritage value.*
- .2 *To enhance and promote heritage values wherever possible throughout the District.*