



Submission by Civic Trust

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Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group formed in 1968 with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region. The aims of the Trust include:

- Protection of natural landforms
- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects
- Encouragement of good planning for the city and region.

Submission on the Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development

The purpose of the Government Policy Statement of Housing and Urban Development (GPS-HUD) was stated to be to “*communicate the Government’s long-term vision for the housing and urban development system, building consensus on what New Zealand wants for the future and aligning the different players to ensure we get there.*”

The reason for having a GPS-HUD is to *improve outcomes for New Zealand* and the Government recognises the *need (for) the different players to pull in the same direction, and that means spelling out where we are headed.*

We have read Government’s articulation of the long-term (well-being) outcomes, about its priorities and the expectations of its agencies, and about the support for the decisions and investments of other actors in the system including local government and the development sector. While we broadly support the ‘*direction*’, we think that ‘*where we are headed*’ needs some reconsideration and amendment.

CTA expects the ‘*well-being*’ to which the Government referred encompasses the widely understood well-beings referred to in the Resource Management Act (1991), namely ‘social’, ‘cultural’ and ‘economic’, and notwithstanding the imminent repeal and replacement of the RMA, those well-beings are widely understood and provide for a full spectrum of consideration.

The messages and approach adopted in the draft GPS-HUD released for consultation has benefited from consultation with key stakeholders. Given that the built environment is part of the urban realm, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Heritage New Zealand as an autonomous crown entity is the government agency with the most direct role in matters of 'heritage and character'. It has the responsibility to promote the protection of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. Despite its advocacy role, a search of Heritage New Zealand's website yields no mention of the GPS-HUD. This appears to be an oversight given the probable widespread loss of character homes within currently recognised 'special character' areas.

CTA is part of Character Coalition Inc, an umbrella group representing the views of over 60 community groups in the Auckland region, most of which have a particular interest in matters involving heritage and character. Character Coalition has made a separate submission on the GPS-HUD and CTA concurs with the points it raises.

A year before the formation of Civic Trust Auckland, at the Annual Conference of the NZ Institute of Architects in 1967, the guest speaker was the head of the Royal Institute of British architects. His words reproduced below are pertinent to the matter of providing for heritage and character within the GPS-HUD.



An address to the Annual Conference at Queenstown on Wednesday, 12 April 1967, by Malcolm McEwen, Editor, *R.I.B.A. Journal*.

In Britain we have an immense historical legacy and a strong bent towards preservationism. Sometimes we are too preservationist, at other times we are vandals, but we have made some progress, particularly through television and the schools to educate people in the third, the visual, culture. In New Zealand it would seem to me that there is a real danger of destroying the small legacy you have from your past, although it is a small rapidly diminishing price-less asset, and of destroying your vast legacy of natural beauty. I would appeal, as an overseas visitor who has come to New Zealand for the first time, to your public to understand that what seems to you an ordinary little building, out-of-date and without much attraction, will in future times be seen as a vital link with your earliest days. How we prize Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains! Nineteenth and even twentieth century buildings should equally be valuable to you. You have in New Zealand an unrivalled landscape, and a great need for intelligent town planning to ensure that your towns enhance it and exploit it without destroying it.

CTA encourages the Government to take heed of the wise man from half a century ago and also to the sentiment expressed (below) by the current Associate Minister of Arts Culture and Heritage.

labour.org.nz/council_must_build_on_heritage_not_destroy_it

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Council must build on heritage, not destroy it

Posted by Jacinda Ardern on July 28, 2016

Auckland Council must move to ensure there are heritage protections in place following recommendations that demolition restrictions be tossed out, Labour's Arts, Culture and Heritage spokesperson Jacinda Ardern says.

The panel considering the Unitary Plan has recommended removing partial protections for neighbourhoods with houses built before 1944.

"This character overlay was a response to a very real problem – the loss of special character buildings. That need hasn't suddenly disappeared.

"Certainly we need to ensure we build both up and out in order to meet the huge demand for housing, but there are ways to do that without losing the character of our communities.

"Our heritage should not be an either/or. We're a young country when it comes to built heritage and we should be doing everything we can to preserve what we have.

"The Council now needs to work with urgency to ensure a solution that safeguards heritage in our communities so that it's not permanently lost," Jacinda Ardern says.

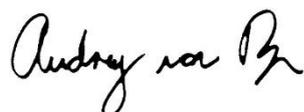
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Signature:



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