



April 1, 2026

On behalf of MVHS

District.Plan@wcc.govt.nz

Heritage listing engagement

WCC is surveying current owners of heritage buildings, heritage structures, and properties located within heritage areas identified in the District Plan, essentially asking if they would like them to be delisted (with a few questions around why).

We believe this survey engagement is a flawed and unjust process, given that the new District Plan has only been operative for just over a year. The process from Spatial Plan to Independent Hearings on the Proposed District Plan took four years and involved exhaustive consultation. Even then, WCC decided to overturn the recommendations of the Independent Hearings Panel in relation to heritage. Nevertheless, decisions were reached, based on an enormous amount of research, analysis and debate. It was a robust and fair process (until the Council rejected the recommendations of the Panel).

Now, however, WCC is asking individual property owners if they would like to delist their properties or structures. This process means that an owner at this particular point in time (maybe owning the property for less than a year?), or an absentee landlord, could ask to have their house removed from a Heritage Area or heritage listing. This negates the fact that a dwelling or structure may have stood for over 100 years, been valued for its heritage by previous owners, and contributes significantly individually or as part of a collective to the heritage of Wellington. It also removes the option for future owners (and the city) to enjoy it. If owners elect to remove their properties, Heritage Areas will ultimately be rendered meaningless - if the 'eyes' are picked out of the Area, it loses its special character.

It is acknowledged worldwide that heritage is an important economic value and contributes to the overall liveability of a city.

Allowing individual heritage-listed property owners to influence long-term decisions on heritage, without evidence or context, is unsound policy-making and unfair process. The outcome of this survey/engagement should not form the basis of any Council decision-making.

We strongly support retention of all current heritage buildings, heritage structures, and properties located within Heritage Areas, unless and until a robust evidence-based process and consultation indicate that they are no longer worthy of retaining their listing.