

Introductory Comments – Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Plan 2015
Jonathan Howard, Area Manager Otago & Southland Office
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

29 June 2016

1. My name is Jonathan Howard and I am the Area Manager for the Otago and Southland office of Heritage New Zealand, based in Dunedin.
2. My background is in the area of buildings conservation, although I have not prepared an expert statement for this hearing.
3. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is an autonomous Crown Entity with statutory responsibility under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA) for the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage. This Act confirms Heritage New Zealand as New Zealand's lead historic heritage advisor.
4. Heritage New Zealand achieves this purpose in several ways:
 - Heritage New Zealand is the custodian of 48 historic places around the country;
 - Heritage New Zealand compiles the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero which identifies New Zealand's significant and valued historical and cultural heritage places;
 - Heritage New Zealand regulates the modification and destruction of archaeological sites through the archaeological authority process;
 - Heritage New Zealand engages in RMA and other statutory processes to improve the regulatory environment for historic heritage.
5. With regard to the Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Plan, Heritage New Zealand is generally supportive of the approach that QLDC has taken with the Heritage Chapter.
6. Heritage New Zealand sees particular value in the work that has been done on the Statements of Significance for heritage precincts, and heritage landscapes. These assessments provide clarity in relation to the values that the District Plan is seeking to protect, and will assist in providing certainty and clarity for users of the Plan, as well as those involved in decision-making about activities within these areas.
7. Heritage New Zealand is also particularly supportive of the emphasis in the objectives, policies and rules on managing cumulative effects and incremental change. In Heritage New Zealand's day to day involvement in resource consent matters the impacts of incremental change to heritage items are very apparent. In some cases such change can lead to a point where the heritage values that the item was originally appreciated for have been largely eroded over time. This is particularly relevant in the Queenstown Lakes District where strong economic drivers can demand frequent changes to the use of heritage buildings and their surrounds.
8. Linked to this is the need to have good information about the values of scheduled places in order to ensure that over time, the most important values are appropriately managed. Through recent assessments undertaken by the Council's consultants, the Wakatipu Heritage Trust, and information upgrades undertaken by Heritage New Zealand, the body of information about scheduled items is growing.

9. Heritage New Zealand's submissions and today's statements are intended to address areas where we consider that the heritage provisions could be strengthened and clarified.
10. With me today to summarise their pre-circulated hearing statements and answer any questions I have –
 - Jane O'Dea, the Heritage Advisor Planning;
 - Matthew Schmidt, the Regional Archaeologist;
 - and Heather Bauchop, the Heritage Advisor Registration
11. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I am happy to answer any questions.