



Report 07.258
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Committee Landcare
Author Fiona Shaw Advisor – Policy and Planning

Historic Places Trust proposal to register Old Coach Road

1. Purpose

To provide a draft submission and recommendations on the Historic Places Trust (HPT) proposal to register the Belmont Old Coach Road on the Heritage Register Category 2

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report does not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Greater Wellington received notification that the Historic Places Trust is considering entering the Belmont Old Coach Road (See **Attachment 1**) as a Category II historic place in the NZHPT register of historic places, historic areas, wahi tapu and wahi tapu areas.

Category II registration recognises the site as being of “*historical or cultural significance of the place*”, as opposed to Category I which carry’s a value of “*places of special or outstanding historical or cultural heritage significance or value*” (S22(3) Historic Places Act 1993) (See **Attachment 2** for further information)

Belmont Old Coach Road is a formed legal road and therefore ownership lies with Hutt and Porirua City Council. Hutt City Council has a management agreement with GW to manage the land to the boundary of the Kilmister Block (HCC ownership), GW owns and manages the land adjacent to the road to the south west; Belmont Road dissects these two blocks at the northern end. GW currently manages 6km of the 10km portion of the Belmont Rd which this registration relates to, as part of Belmont Regional Park.

The listing of a site on the heritage register has no direct implications for the land owner but is meant as a tool for identifying heritage sites around the country. It is then there to assist the Territorial Authorities to identify and cater for the heritage sites within their District Plans.

Hutt City Council has listed this site in their District Plan under “sites of cultural significance” and they therefore see this registration as a mechanism that will give intrinsic affect to the policies contained within that chapter of the District Plan. (See **Attachment 3**) The registration of the site will not change the rules which already apply to the road under this current District Plan.

PCC has not listed this site in its District Plan but has given support to the registration in their submissions to the Historic Places Trust. However their support is only for the section of the Old Belmont Road which falls inside the Regional Park boundary and not for the approximately 300 metres of the road which is outside of the park but within their city boundary.

The reason for this being is that it is believed that the values which make the road of heritage significance could not be protected whilst maintaining the road to an operational standard, required for the section in mention as it currently provides access for residential properties. PCC has therefore asked for this small portion of the road to be left out of the registration process. HPT will take this into consideration.

Any person can nominate a site to be registered as an historic place under section 24 of the Historic Places Act 1993. In this particular case Richard Sadlier, on behalf of the Friends of Belmont, made the nomination and after the Trust had investigated the merits of the site in terms of heritage values initiated the process for having it listed.

4. Comment

After obtaining both legal and valuation advice on the effects of registering the Old Coach Road as a Category II heritage site, Officers have prepared a submission which supports the proposal for the following reasons: (See **Attachment 4**)

- The Belmont Road is a formed legal road owned by Hutt and Porirua City Council. Both these landowners have supported the proposal to register Old Belmont Road as a Category II site. As Greater Wellington manages the land on behalf of Hutt and Porirua City Council it would be appropriate for GW to be consistent with the landowner’s recommendations
- The registration itself has no direct implications for the landowner; no statutory requirements are attached to the registration, as it is an identification and advocacy measure. Therefore no additional responsibilities will be passed onto GW as a direct result of this listing
- As mentioned the HPT register is a tool for identifying heritage sites. Any implications of the listing are usually borne out through the district plan process. In light of the fact that both the Territorial Authorities have

supported the proposal, it can be expected that the site will be listed in both Council's District Plan in the next review

- The report prepared by HPT describes the road as a “fine and rare example of an early, horse era road, the first road built between the Hutt Valley and Wellington’s west coast”
- Both legal and valuation advice indicate there are no unreasonable complications or negative land value consequences as a result of the registration.
- Greater Wellington has made a commitment through the RPS to “recognising sites of regional significance, that they are managed in an integrated manner and are conserved and sustained for present and future generations.” Supporting this proposal gives affect to those principals
- The Regional Parks Network management plan also reiterates this in the objectives for heritage management within the Regional Parks Network. This is supported by the polices outlined in that chapter (See **Attachment 5**)
- The current management plan for Belmont lists the Old Coach Rd and states that GW will protect this site where practicable (Policy 3.11 (1)). Any subsequent plans can give affect to this registration through objectives and policies.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Endorses the draft submission (Attachment 5)***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:



Fiona Shaw
Advisor - Policy and Planning

Murray Waititi
Manager Parks

Murray Kennedy
Manager Parks, Forests and
Water Supply

Attachment 1: Map: Old Coach Road

Attachment 2: Brochure: The Register (Historic Places Trust)

Attachment 3: Sites of Cultural Significance policy (Hutt City District Plan)

Attachment 4: Submission to Historic Places Trust

Attachment 5: Heritage policy (Regional Parks Network Plan)