

AK Taihia

From: davidtruscott
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 10:24 am
To: AK Taihia
Subject: RE: Proposed District Plan - Hearing 12 Historic Heritage, Sites of Significance to Māori, Notable Trees and Kororāreka Russell Township

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kia ora

Thankyou for this and I apologise for the late response. I find that I am unable to attend the hearing. I would like to thank John Redfern for his arborist assessment of the fig tree at the Masonic Hotel in Rawene and his recommendation that the tree be omitted from the schedule of notable trees. I would confirm that it is not our intention to remove the tree, but to regularly manage the canopy for safety and amenity reasons, as noted in his report. The tree straddles the road reserve boundary so that the council is also involved with this.

Secondly I have to say that I am disappointed that the Proposed DP does not address urban design issues despite the council signing up to the urban design protocol. As an urban designer and author of the New Zealand chapter of 'Progress in Urban Design: an International Review' 2012 RIBA pub. I find that what progress was apparent a decade ago has dissipated. As a former senior lecturer in urban design at South Bank University in London, I find the lack of concern to be disappointing. Councils need to encourage a connection with the environment so that people feel responsible for it. As theory indicates (see 'Responsive Environments' Bentley, I. et al) personalisation of property through colour is an important part of this. The sense of connection is lessened by the imposition of acceptability by others such as councils.

Thirdly, as a heritage planner working in conservation in Chester for 10 years I would be the first to accept that colour controls are important for heritage buildings. The colour controls proposed in the DP however seem to allow the choice of colours that do not relate to the age of the building, so that for example art deco colours would be allowed on an 1850s building. This is inappropriate. I would expect the colour controls to be better related solely to scheduled buildings and that, with advice, the colour choice is related to the age of the building.

The context of the heritage buildings is a different matter. Colour has an important place in economic development. Our experience in Rawene with our wedge building project saw the 'Rawene renaissance' as described by Bill Edwards when it won the Resene International Colour Award in 2016. The colours do not appear on the proposed DP charts. It was evident that Rawene residents began to see that the town had a future so that other investment was encouraged. Small town decline with outward migration is an ongoing threat and tourism is the only economic generator available. Rawene was described by Duncan Garner in the Herald as the prettiest town in the far north and this promotion is our focus with our current refurbishment of Rawene's scheduled Masonic Hotel.

Finally I would like to commend the council for its endeavours with the DP. It is to be hoped that residents in low income areas such as the Hokianga will bother to apply for consent.

Regards
David Truscott, MA BSc Dip UD

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: AK Taihia <Alicia-Kate.Taihia@fndc.govt.nz>
Date: 13/05/25 10:51 am (GMT+12:00)
To: Proposed District Plan <pdp@fndc.govt.nz>
Subject: Proposed District Plan - Hearing 12 Historic Heritage, Sites of Significance to Māori, Notable Trees and Kororāreka Russell Township

Kia ora,

You have recently been contacted from our Proposed District Plan email address regarding Hearing 12 - Historic Heritage, Sites of Significance to Māori, Notable Trees and Kororāreka Russell Township topics.

We wanted to ensure that you have received our emails and had an opportunity to review the [S42A Reports](#).

The deadline for confirming hearing attendance was yesterday. If you have overlooked this deadline or not received this email previously, and would like to speak at the hearing, please contact me by email by close of business Wednesday as the hearing timetable is currently being compiled.

Ngā mihi,



AK Taihia

Submissions & Hearings Administrator - District Plan

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Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika | Far North District Council

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