

Huia Kaimanawa – Heritage Policy for Land Transport Infrastructure

15 April 2024

Our land transport network closely follows traditional travel paths that connected historical settlements. For this reason, it is inevitable that state highway activities have the potential to damage or disturb places of cultural, archaeological or historic importance. This includes places of significance to Māori such as pā, marae and wāhi tapu. Our transport infrastructure also represents a legacy of road and rail building in Aotearoa New Zealand of which we are proud.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) supports sustainable work on transport infrastructure that appropriately manages risks to heritage, and conserves and celebrates these places.

Application

This policy is a requirement for infrastructure planning, design, delivery, maintenance and operation activities where we are the principal entity or partner responsible for the activity.

Approved organisations are encouraged to implement these policy requirements for activities that are funded by the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF).

This policy gives effect to legislative requirements, national policy and other relevant NZTA policies and strategies.

This policy should be read in conjunction with Te Ara Kotahi – Our Māori Strategy and Hononga ki te Iwi – Our Māori Engagement Framework.

[Te Ara Kotahi](#)
[Hononga ki te Iwi](#)

Objectives

1. Enable kaitiakitanga of places of significance to Māori and Moriori.
2. Identify and document heritage places.
3. Manage the risks posed to heritage.
4. Aim to protect, conserve, and celebrate heritage places.

Enable kaitiakitanga of places of significance to Māori and Moriori

As a minimum, we will:

- Partner and consult with iwi/imi and hapū where places have ancestral values.
- Support kaitiaki communities to adapt and conserve places of significance to Māori and Moriori:
 - Places of significance to Māori and Moriori are appropriately protected and conserved throughout project and asset management lifecycles.
 - Iwi/imi and hapū-led initiatives to protect places of significance from climate change are supported.¹
 - Resilience of Māori land² and places of significance is supported.
 - Mātauranga Māori, tikanga and kawa are respected.

¹ Consistent with [Urutau, ka taurikura: kia tū pakari a Aotearoa i ngā huringa āhuarangi – adapt and thrive: building a climate-resilient New Zealand – New Zealand's first national adaptation plan](#) (2022).

² Māori land is defined by [section 129 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993](#).

Identify and document heritage places

As a minimum, we will:

- Use fit-for-purpose screening to identify heritage:
 - Heritage screening will be implemented from the earliest phases of business case development and through subsequent planning, design, construction, maintenance and operations, emergency works, asset management, land acquisition, and disposal.
 - Screening will integrate steps to account for potential heritage places that may not be recorded, listed, or scheduled.
- Improve knowledge of heritage places:
 - Heritage places on the state highway network, including places of significance to Māori and Moriori, will be identified and researched to understand their extent, history, use, fabric, and significance.
 - The NZTA heritage mapping tool and heritage asset inventory will be developed and maintained.
 - Information related to heritage places, including assessments and reports, will be appropriately stored and disseminated to inform all stages of the project lifecycle.
 - Where significant heritage values have been identified, we will support initiatives that publicly recognise heritage values of places under our care, through listing and scheduling of heritage places by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT), councils, and other recognised heritage listings.

Manage the risks posed to heritage

As a minimum, we will:

- Comply with legislation and best heritage practice.
- Use accidental discovery protocols where the potential for archaeological sites to be affected has been assessed to be low.
- Collaborate early with heritage partners and stakeholders to identify risks and management options, recognising that knowledge of potential heritage and positive conservation opportunities are often held and valued by communities, iwi/imi and hapū, councils and HNZPT.
- Commission technical assessments that reflect best heritage practice, prepared by people with appropriate qualifications, training and experience.
- Support iwi/imi and hapū to provide cultural impact/values assessments, respecting the sovereignty of information on places of significance to Māori.
- Carefully assess direct, indirect, physical, visual, landscape, and cumulative effects on heritage.
- Assess climate-related risks that could cause damage or accelerate deterioration of heritage places, including the exposure and vulnerability of heritage places to climate change.
- Develop frameworks and tools for disaster risk management for heritage.
- Consider risks and opportunities for heritage in an integrated approach with other relevant disciplines.
- Prepare heritage management plans to ensure heritage is thoroughly protected during infrastructure development and delivery, and maintenance and operations.
- Provide on-site induction and training prior to works starting.

Aim to protect, conserve, and celebrate heritage places

As a minimum, we will:

- Aim to avoid the significant loss of heritage values and ensure that activities that may result in the loss of values include consideration of all reasonable and feasible alternatives.
- Use best-practice heritage conservation approaches for the long-term management of heritage places including:
 - Appropriate mechanisms will support iwi/imi/hapū/ and kaitiaki to maintain physical access to heritage places of importance to them.
 - Retention and adaptive reuse will be considered early as an option for heritage places.
 - Active use of heritage places in a way that is compatible with heritage values is encouraged.
 - Provision will be made early for appropriate future ownership, management and maintenance of heritage assets that become inactive.
 - Opportunities for heritage conservation to contribute to sustainability, resilience and placemaking objectives will be thoroughly investigated.
 - Conservation management plans inform the ongoing management of heritage places administered by NZTA.
 - All viable options are considered for disposal of land and/or buildings to ensure that heritage values are not adversely affected while meeting the requirements of the Crown land disposal process.

Further information

- [Environmental and Social Responsibility Policy](#)
- [Z/19 Taumata Taiao – Environmental and Sustainability Standard](#)
- [P45 Heritage specification for land transport infrastructure](#)
- [Heritage page on our website](#)
- Contact environment@nzta.govt.nz