

# How we support owners of heritage items scheduled in the district plan

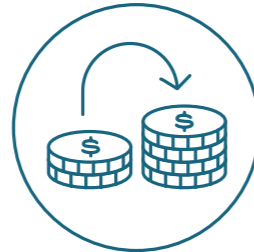


## Information and advice

Our heritage advisors can help and lend a hand with any heritage-related matters.

If you would like ideas for working with heritage items, we can:

- provide information on heritage significance
- advise on repair, adaptive reuse, restoration and future conservation
- give input on resource consent applications for changes to heritage items



## Resource consent fee reimbursement

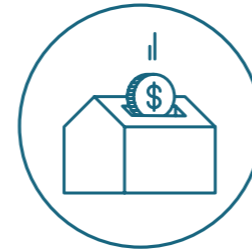
We can help out with some of the costs of applying for a resource consent.

You may be eligible for a reimbursement of up to \$2,500 if your application required a resource consent because of a heritage listing and the Council supports the proposed works.

## Rates remissions

We offer owners partial remission on the payment of rates when:

- Earthquake strengthening is being undertaken and a building is temporarily not fit for purpose.
- When an earthquake prone building is removed from the earthquake prone building list after strengthening work has been completed. This relief is offered for a period of 5 - 10 years.



## Funding support

We want to contribute to safe and resilient buildings.

### Wellington City Council's Built Heritage Incentive Fund

The purpose of this fund is to assist owners of heritage buildings and structures to undertake conservation and seismic strengthening work where successful outcomes would be unlikely without assistance.

The majority of the fund is intended for work related to earthquake strengthening (such as engineering reports or the actual work), with a smaller portion of the fund reserved.

You can find out about the projects that we've supported through the fund on our website:

[wellington.govt.nz/heritagefund](https://wellington.govt.nz/heritagefund)

### Heritage EQUIP Funding

Heritage buildings scheduled in the district plan may also be eligible to apply for funding for earthquake strengthening and professional advice from the Heritage EQUIP programme which is run by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

You can find out about the criteria and the projects that Heritage EQUIP has supported through the fund on their website:

[heritageequip.govt.nz](https://heritageequip.govt.nz)

# The difference between heritage and character



## Heritage

Heritage is defined in the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) as:

a) natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities:

- archaeological
- architectural
- cultural
- historic
- scientific
- technological

b) includes:

- historic sites, structures, places, and areas
- archaeological sites
- sites of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu
- surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources

The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development is a 'matter of national importance' and Council follows a robust process to identify and assess heritage places to make sure that they are eligible for scheduling in the District Plan. It's a different test to character.

Take a look at [wellingtoncityheritage.org.nz](http://wellingtoncityheritage.org.nz) to see what is on our heritage list.



## Character

Character is not defined in the RMA. For the purpose of other work we've done character has been defined as:

*'a concentration of common, consistent natural and physical features and characteristics that collectively combine to establish the local distinctiveness and identity of an area, and that contribute to a unique 'sense of place' when viewed by the public at large from the street or other public spaces'.*

Things that could collectively form the character of an area include: topography, street pattern, public open space, street trees, land use, lot size and dimension, garage type and location, presence (or otherwise) of retaining walls, site specific built form contributed to by building age, architectural style, primary building type and materials, building siting and boundary setbacks, building height and shape, and site coverage.

## How the Council manages heritage and character

In the district plan heritage is managed through heritage areas and individual listings for buildings and objects, while character is managed through character areas. These have different rules to reflect that they are designed to manage different values.

A street of Edwardian villas may not be scheduled in the district plan as a heritage area if they don't meet the heritage criteria and thresholds. They may however be managed as a character area if they create a cohesive streetscape character.