

From: Janine Donohue
Sent: Fri, 18 Nov 2022 20:15:52 +1300
To: District Plan
Subject: Submission on proposed plan change to Mackenzie District Spatial Plan

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Applicant:
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Date: 19 November 2022

Submission:
Retain The Burkes Pass Heritage Township status in the plan change 21.
Restrict large density residential housing.
Restrict/control the type of commercial activity able to be carried out in the residential township.

Te Kopi-O-Opihito [Burkes Pass] holds cultural heritage as it was the gateway for pre Europeans who travelled through the area. It is rich in history that helped shape the region for both Maori and European settlers.

The Burkes Pass Heritage Trust has worked extremely hard to improve the heritage, culture and environment of the township, creating a heritage walkway and information boards highlighting the heritage buildings and creating and maintaining plantings in the town.

Burkes Pass is an important heritage town, it was to be the capital of the Mackenzie Basin, unfortunately the intended railway stopped at Fairlie in 1884 displacing Burkes Pass. The town has several important historic buildings, three of which have category listings with the New Zealand Historic Places:

1: St Patrick's Church built by early pioneers in 1872 is the oldest union church in New Zealand still standing on its original site.

2: The Mount Cook Road Board was built in 1876, an original government building and the former home of the now Mackenzie District Council.

3: Alma Cottage, an original cob cottage.

There is also the original school, school teachers house and other cob cottages.

The protection of historic buildings and special areas is important and requires careful consideration when planning developments and district plans.

My husband and I wish Burkes Pass to retain its Heritage Township status in the new Spatial Plan.

We feel strongly about this as this was a major feature of the original spatial plan which the community heartily welcomed with positive feedback at community meetings.

It is disheartening to hear after the fact that an informal drop in meeting was held at the Fairlie council office and that two un-named residents apparently raised objections for retaining the Heritage Township status.

The Mackenzie Spatial Plan says "Your Town, Your Future, Your Say"

but the communities "majority" wishes do not seem to have been taken into consideration when changing the Heritage status on the new spatial plan.

Burkes Pass needs to retain the Heritage Township status to preserve the streetscape along the Heritage Walkway, to control the housing zone development/style and to restrict the type of commercial business which may be able to operate in this area to protect and promote the town's existing heritage character. We feel that "unrestricted" commercial operations or large scale residential accommodation is not suitable for our town's residential area.

We strongly request that the changed spatial plan be reviewed with formal community consultation before it is adopted as it **DOES NOT MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR HERITAGE TOWN.**

Heritage places have powerful stories to tell of our past and should be protected and valued.

Heritage is always at risk, it is important that we care for and preserve our historic buildings and places for future generations as they help us gain an understanding of New Zealand's past and how this shaped our future.

Once gone - you cannot get them back.

Please help save and protect our Heritage Township.

Regards Janine and Peter Donohue.