

# Your submission to Draft first set of National Planning Standards

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## **Clause**

Do you have any further comments you wish to make about the Government's proposal?

## **Notes**

ICOMOS NZ wishes to comment on three topics in the area of historic heritage management and protection: Definitions Clarification and consolidation of definitions between plans will ensure consistency and transferability of ideas and processes. Criteria There are currently no national criteria for the identification and listing of historic heritage items. Each district or region has the ability to develop its own criteria, which allows for local variation but precludes any national consistency or comparison. Criteria based on overarching themes will allow local district the flexibility to tell their own local stories, while allowing a level of national consistency. Such consistency will aid local government hearings, Environment Court hearings, and consideration of applications for contestable funding, using a national platform of significance, based on nationally applied criteria. Databases There are numerous databases of historic heritage items. Some have a statutory or regulatory basis, such as district plan lists or Heritage New Zealand's List. Some have an ambiguous status such as the Landmarks Whenua Tohunga programme administered by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage (which is not to be confused with the Landmarks List established by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014). Other have no legal status but are used for statutory purposes, such as the NZ Archaeological Association database, ArchSite. It is not suggested that all these databases be conflated - this would create problems. However, the functions of the statutory/regulatory databases and the relationships between them could be clarified. This is actually a bigger issue than might appear - underpinning this would be the requirement to clarify relative roles and responsibilities. For example, it could be decided that Heritage New Zealand's list deals with heritage of regional and national significance, while local communities recognise their own local heritage through district plan processes and lists.