

Online submission

This is a submission that was made online via the Council's website.

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Submitter is contact	Yes
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Wish to be heard	Yes
Joint presentation	Yes
Trade competition	I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
Directly affected	N/A
Withhold contact details?	No

Submission points

Plan section	Provision	Support/oppose	Reasons
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Decision sought

[General]

[General]

Support in part

A full assessment of the historic heritage and amenity values of the township of Kumara, to include a schedule with all reserve sites apart from the two currently included in the draft TTPP , and other well known heritage buildings and sites within the township as a precinct overlay to ensure all future development is sensitive to the existing townscape and its heritage value.

I make this submission as a private citizen residing in Kumara, and it is not intended to represent my employer, the Greymouth Evening Star Ltd for which I am employed as a journalist sometimes covering the business of the Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee.

I preface my submission by expressing my disappointment in the inaccessibility of the 'on-line plan'. The system is illogical and does not flow.

On that basis, I cautiously make this submission with a personal disclaimer that, as a fairly literate but computer system illiterate person, I may have missed the relative sections in the TTPP I wish had applied to Kumara but which I could not find.

As far as what I can't see in the plan, I am disappointed very little of the heritage value, including extant early sites of significance in the town of Kumara and surrounds have not been recognised or even identified within the Historic Heritage area or in the settlement overlay.

In light of considerable effort over the past decade by individuals, and collectively, in the township to transform derelict heritage buildings as part of its revival, there should be some signifier in the TTPP acknowledging this aspect of Kumara township's character.

The enhancement of the town's historic heritage value has promoted significant improvement to the amenity value of the township through interpretation boards and the 'village green' etc, but there appears to be no recognition in the plan of this.

I believe the plan should at least identify individual buildings dating from the 19th century worthy of ongoing protection to continue the enhancement of the broader historic heritage precinct value, and amenity, of the place.

Kumara is also a 'gateway' to Westland from Canterbury for visitors i.e. one of the first places visitors to Westland

encounter as a destination. I would like to see some sort of value around that gateway value, along with the heritage value placed into the plan so that future development of the service and accommodation sector in the village is managed sensitively.

I can see very little reference to the amenity values of various historic sites in the town, apart from two referenced in the Historic Heritage schedule.

Specifically, on clicking on 118 Third Street, Kumara, the section containing the historic St Patrick's Church of 1877, the system simply says 'address unknown'. This site is at least the second oldest Catholic Church still regularly used as a place of worship in the region (after Ross St Patrick's from 1866).

Apart from it being the very earliest public buildings still in existence from when the town of Kumara was founded (1876), this site should be recognised in the district plan at least for its cultural heritage value, because it is a tangible memorial to the cultural melting pot for the Catholic diaspora from Ireland and other European countries on the West Coast goldfields in the 19th Century.

St Patrick's is a fair example of a West Coast gold fields building, in the 'carpenter gothic' style which was built simply and quickly.

There is an historically remarkable story of how it came to be built and opened for use in just six weeks after Archbishop Redwood of Wellington on a visitation to Westland received a deputation of Kumara miners in 1877 on his way south for a visitation. He opened the current church on his way back just six weeks later. This kind of story value should be assigned within a historic heritage schedule in the plan through some appropriately assessed designation be it cultural or simply as an historic place.

St Patrick's Catholic Church has been a very significant landmark in the town for 145 years, with its distinct height and structure a dominant feature of photographs of the townscape from its earliest days.

It should also be recognised that despite St Patrick's historic value, its future as a place of worship is by no

historic value, its future as a place of worship is by no means secure into the future. Therefore it should be protected under provisions in the plan from future unsympathetic development.

[NB. While I am a parishoner of St Patrick's Parish, encompassing Kumara, my view here does not necessarily represent that of the formal parish as an organisation.]

Documents included with submission

None

There are other sites in Kumara, including the local Theatre Royal Hotel, the former Empire Hotel, the old BNZ building, with two cottages immediately north, and the adjacent former drapers shop to the south which have been admirably enhanced through sensitive restoration to emphasis the historic heritage of Kumara.

The Seddon site should be included given the link with Richard John Seddon as the first mayor of Kumara and the first 'modern' prime minister of New Zealand.

Some consideration should at least be given to properly identifying the remaining built heritage from Kumara's earliest settlement, including quite a number of 'quaint' cottages from the 1870s on, as no doubt sites like Arrowtown in Queenstown Lakes District has done so that any future development in Kumara is not done insensitively to the character of those buildings -- which at least should be identified in the Te Tai o Poutini Plan as a historic heritage precinct.

Aside from the 'old swimming bath site' dating from the 1930s, there are a number of walking tracks including Taylors Hill, Payns walk, Londonderry Rock, and the Kumara Walk which are currently variably managed for recreation and the amenity value. Are they of value?

There are one or more recreation reserves in Kumara which all should be identified. This includes the Beach Road (Reserve 2086 WDC) site, formerly the town's tennis court, and another former 'recreation ground' on Greenstone Road which may still be in public ownership.

At least one section of the Kumara Memorial Hall Incorporated Society's property was previously reserve -- it is appropriate to identify. Notably, the hall is the site of

Is it appropriate to identify. Notably, the hall is the site of the District War Memorial for Kumara -- this needs to be identified in the plan.

I would like to see all sites of heritage and amenity value in the township -- including the various paper roads -- properly assessed and acknowledged for their potential amenity value.

This is so that future development within Kumara is done sensitively and in keeping with the current ambiance of the township.

That is to say, the village style, historic heritage and current low-scale development in Kumara should be recognised and given due acknowledgement through the appropriate provisions of the proposed TTPP .