



ICOMOS NEW ZEALAND

TE MANA O NGA POUWHENUA O TE AO

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS

Office of Hon. Dr Megan Woods
Freepost PO Box 18 888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email: megan.woods@parliament.govt.nz

14 May 2018

Dear Minister,

ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is an international non-governmental organisation, founded in 1965, comprising heritage professionals from round the world, dedicated to the conservation and protection of places of cultural heritage value¹. It is UNESCO's principal advisor in this field. It has an international membership of 10,000 expert heritage practitioners from over 130 countries.

The New Zealand National Committee of ICOMOS was established in 1986. It has 135 members made up of professionals with a particular expertise and interest in heritage matters, including architects, engineers, archaeologists, lawyers, heritage practitioners and planners; and an Executive Board of 19 professionals, including myself.

One of ICOMOS New Zealand's key responsibilities is to prepare, update and administer the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value, Te Pumanawa o ICOMOS o Aotearoa Hei Tiaki I Nga Taonga Whenua Heke Iho o Nehe. Following the spirit of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (the Venice Charter - 1964), the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter sets out principles to guide the conservation of places of cultural heritage value in New Zealand. It provides a set of professional principles for members of ICOMOS New Zealand; and is recognised and implemented by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Conservation, and a number of Territorial Authorities.

¹ Places/sites of cultural heritage value may include buildings and other structures or monuments, gardens, archaeological sites, townscapes, settlements and sacred places.



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As you may be aware, the Heritage Report (Appendix 3) of the Christ Church Cathedral Working Group Report makes mention of the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter, stating:

The issue now is to find a process whereby the building can be reinstated to a safe and sustainable condition without unacceptably adverse effects on the heritage values.

In the normal way of things, the ICOMOS NZ Charter and a Conservation Plan would provide the guidance necessary for such work. However, the ICOMOS NZ Charter, which is the industry standard for work involving heritage buildings, focusses on conservation and repair, usually arising from wear and tear or minor damage and it does not provide guidance for the treatment of disaster damaged buildings.

We wish to provide our assurance that the Charter provides guidance not only for the conservation and repair of minor damage to buildings of cultural heritage value, but also for the treatment of significant damage, whether this be caused by natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

I have attached a copy of the Charter for your information.

Should you have any questions about the Charter and its application, or about ICOMOS New Zealand in general, at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Bowman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ian Bowman
Chair, ICOMOS New Zealand