

INVERCARGILL CITY COUNCIL

HERITAGE SURVEY & STRATEGY

2018 QUAKECORE ANNUAL MEETING

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In 2016, Invercargill City Council engaged Origin Consultants to review central city heritage buildings.

169 buildings were reassessed with 26 buildings recommended for removal. As a result, Invercargill City Council (ICC) is developing a Heritage Strategy.

Community engagement

An online survey for the public and a series of presentations / workshops for building owners took place in March 2018.

Online survey results:

- 600 people responded – 78% were Invercargill ratepayers.
- 70% aged between 25 and 54.
- 10% directly involved with the inner city.
- 82% of ratepayers thought the list of heritage buildings should be reduced compared to 64% of non-ratepayers.

Attitudes to heritage buildings were measured on a scale of 1 (disagree) to 5 (agree)

“Heritage buildings give Invercargill a sense of character”

“I like the scale of city centre heritage buildings, namely their height and streetscape quality”

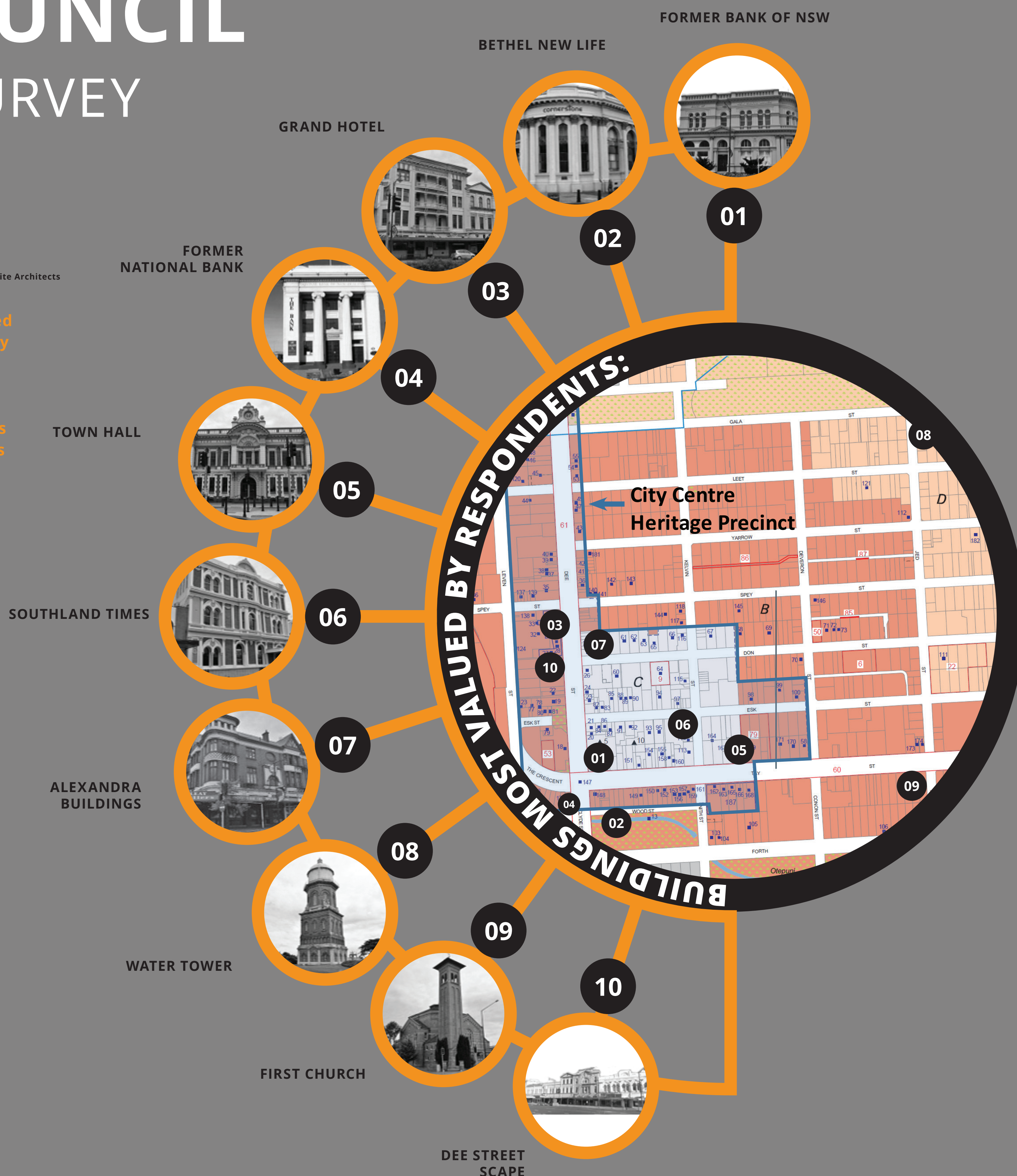
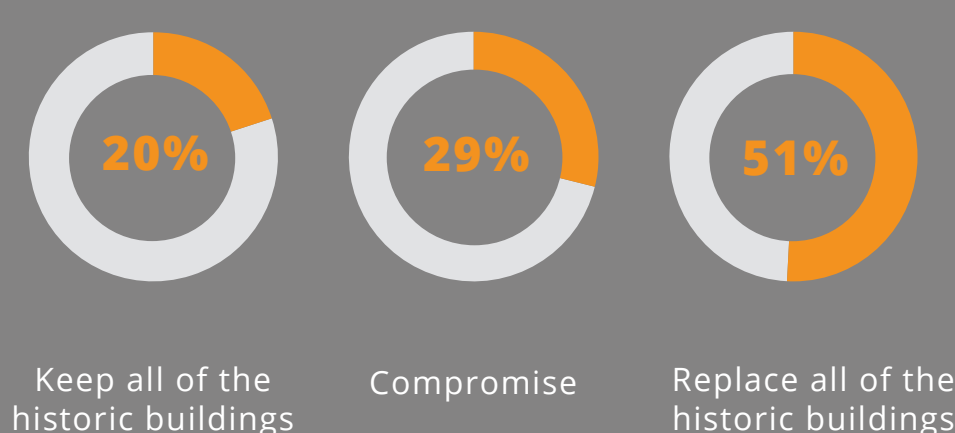
“Heritage buildings are a valuable resource that tell the story of how the city has developed over time”

“Tourists appreciate the heritage nature of the buildings in our city centre”

“All heritage buildings should be demolished and replaced with modern structures”

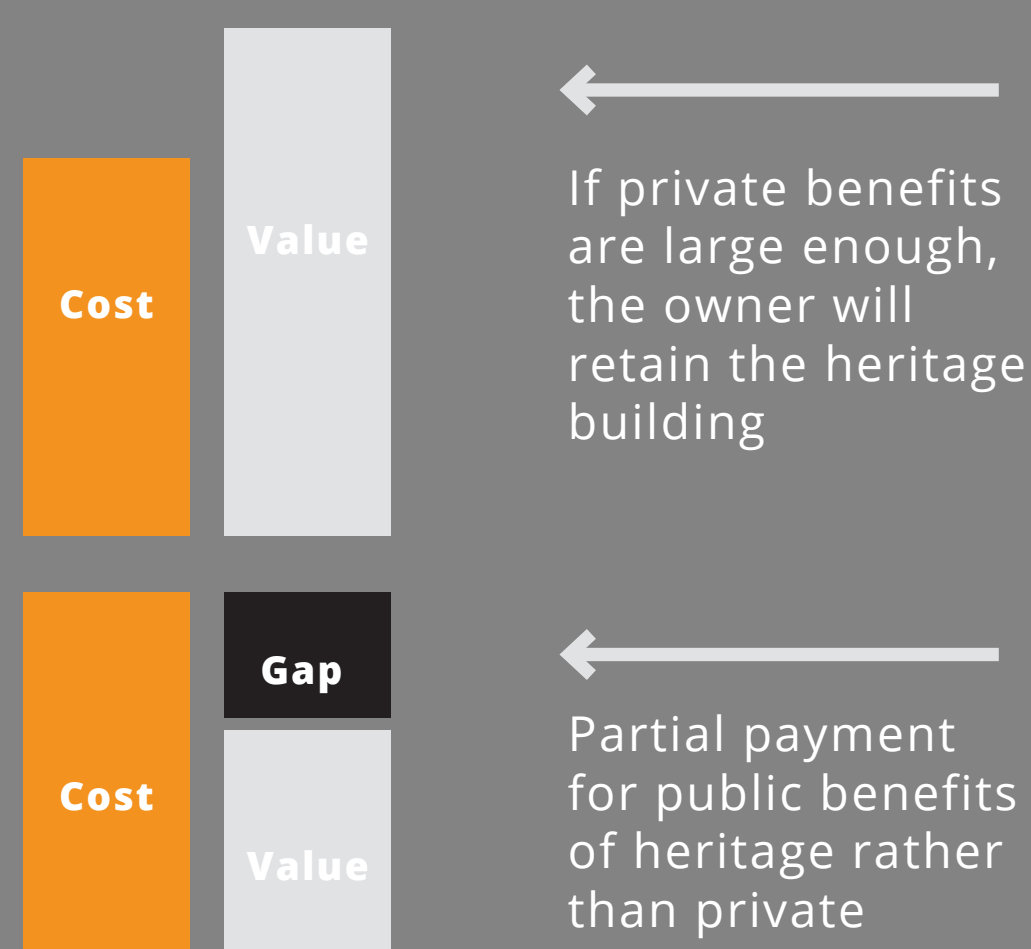
Many heritage buildings in the inner city have been poorly maintained by their owners and respondents associate heritage buildings with neglect.

Invercargill ratepayers (especially older age groups - 45+) tend to have more negative emotions about heritage buildings (i.e. lower mean scores).



Heritage protection

62% of ratepayers think that ICC should provide incentives to protect heritage buildings compared to 74% of non-ratepayers.



Heritage as public good

- Heritage buildings have historical and aesthetic values, social and economic benefits, and association significance.
- External (public) benefits provide the main justification to retain heritage.

Heritage preservation & earthquake resilience

- Local and Central Government need to provide a mix of funding tools to incentivise EQ strengthening and maintenance of heritage buildings.
- Utilising vacant buildings for creative industries and incubators for small businesses drive inner-city regeneration.
- Councils are faced with the challenge of finding the right balance between what is protected and what is replaced (i.e. irreversible loss vs. availability of close substitutes).
- To retain and maintain key public buildings, Councils can test residents' threshold for 'willingness to pay' to preserve heritage assets (i.e. annual ratepayer contribution).