SUBMISSION

To: The Local Government & Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

On: The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill

Introduction:
1. This Submission is made by Historic Places Wellington Incorporated (HPW). HPW seeks to have the opportunity to have a representative appear in support of its Submission.

Background:
2. HPW has been formed as part of the national organisation Historic Places Aotearoa (HPA), to take over the role of the Wellington Branch Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) which is being dis-established as a result of this legislation. The dissolving of the Branch Committees is covered in clause 100 on page 75.

3. The principal objects of HPW are to promote the identification, protection and conservation of historic places in the Wellington region, for the benefit of communities and the general public, and to inform, advise and educate the public on the significance of historic heritage. These roles are the same as those of the NZHPT branch committees which are being disestablished.

4. The NZHPT has approximately 20,000 members, of which the Wellington region makes up some 15% of the membership base. HPW will endeavour to bring a large number of these members across to replace the voluntary work of members of NZHPT that has served it well for some 55 years.

5. HPW notes that Section 60 of the Historic Places Act 1993, which allowed for membership, has not been carried over into the new Bill. The Bill makes no mention of the membership base. Presumably this omission is intentional. The three Board positions representing the membership are also removed.
6. In view of these changes in legislation, there is in our view a strong case for the membership concept in turn to transfer over to HPA at the same time. HPW questions whether retaining a voluntary membership element in HNZ is consistent with Crown Entity status. The situation created by the Bill is most confusing to the public because of name changes and because both organisations are seeking to recruit and retain a membership base.

7. If it is the intention for Heritage NZ to maintain the membership base, and as HPA has to grow a new membership base, then more generous transitional funding for HPA should be forthcoming. This would enable HPA take up the role of NZHPT in providing a public voice for New Zealand’s heritage, which is under increasing threat especially after the Christchurch earthquakes and the associated issues facing building owners across New Zealand.

John Daniels
Chair, Historic Places Wellington Inc
Ex CEO NZHPT (1971-1988)

Peter Dowell
Ex Chair, Wellington Branch NZHPT
Treasurer, Historic Places Wellington Inc
Heritage Building owner (20years)