



Tēnā koe

You may have seen media coverage over the weekend on a proposed centre in Manukau, Auckland.

This letter is to provide you with further information about the proposal.

1. Agreement to explore a national cultural centre in South Auckland

On Saturday, the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Hon. Chris Finlayson announced an agreement to jointly explore the development of a proposed national cultural centre for collections, learning and touring located at Hayman Park in Manukau, Auckland.

The letter of agreement has been signed by Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Hon. Chris Finlayson; Auckland Mayor, Len Brown; Te Papa Chair, Evan Williams; and Ōtara-Papatoetoe Board Chair, Jon McCracken.

This is a partnership project involving central government and Te Papa working with major cultural collecting institutions under the Auckland Council, including the Auckland War Memorial Museum and Regional Facilities Auckland / Auckland Art Gallery. The project is being enthusiastically supported by the Ministry of Education.

The proposed Centre would offer an opportunity to work in collaboration with these partners and other culture, education, academic and heritage organisations to create a rich cultural hub in which to:

- increase access to collections through exhibition spaces
- provide shared and accessible storage facilities that encourage use of the collections for research
- provide learning spaces that connect with local communities and encourage life-long learning, from pre-school to tertiary and beyond
- encourage use of digital technologies to connect with and share taonga
- provide a hub for touring local, regional and national collections.

More importantly it would be a project that is developed with the local community for the local community. Te Papa will be thinking nationally, but impacting locally.

2. Difference between Te Papa in Wellington and the proposed Centre

This proposal is about looking for an opportunity to make our national collections available to more people that live north of Taupō and providing an additional education and research resource in that region. Te Papa will continue to be the nation's premier art institution and museum based in Wellington. Te Papa will continue to develop and grow its offer in Wellington.

While we do not have the detail of what the proposed centre would look like, it is expected the Centre would not be a conventional museum, but it would provide learning experiences and access to collections. It would be a different offer based on Te Papa's interdisciplinary and interactive style, but we are not re-creating "Te Papa" in the sense of the Cable Street building in Wellington.

3. Location of proposed Centre

The Auckland Council has agreed in principle to support the proposal by making available part of Hayman Park in Manukau, Auckland. This site presents an opportunity for the Centre to serve as a hub to many local communities, the wider and neighbouring regions of Auckland, and it is close to main transport links such as the motorway, railway and airport.

It would also present an opportunity to increase access to national collections and reach new audiences. Manukau is an area where there is significant population growth and rich cultural diversity.

The proposal to explore development of a centre in Manukau, Auckland presents an exciting opportunity. The business case will be developed in the coming months and will involve engagement with local communities. This way we can be confident that we are proposing the development of a facility that will meet the needs of local communities.

4. What will the Centre look like? How much will it cost?

Given we have only reached an agreement to explore this opportunity, it is much too early to talk specifically about what the building will look like other than that it would be state-of-the-art and purpose built to include spaces for learning, displays and providing access to collections. As the concept develops we will then determine which collections might be part of that concept. Again, we will be engaging with the local community in its design and use.

The project is subject to funding approval following submission of a business case to government for consideration before the end of the year. The cost of the proposed project will be determined through development of the business case and will include a number of options for funding the project.

5. Which parts of collections might move?

The Board is committed to the decision to reduce the risk of seismic damage to the national collections by seeking an additional location to house some of its collections and diversify the risk. So, some collections or parts of collections will be housed outside of the Wellington region.

However, at this stage we do not know what the Centre in Manukau would mean for the collections, as it is only a proposal to explore possibilities. In other words we do not know which collections might move.

6. Next steps

A fully detailed and specified Business Case is being developed by Te Papa in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, and with support from Treasury officials and external financial consultants, for presentation to Government, probably in November.

You can be assured that as part of this proposal we will be consulting with key stakeholders on the criteria for moving the collections; and we will be consulting on the application of those criteria to the collections.

We will develop a plan to consult with stakeholders over the coming months. This is likely to have several layers or phases, as the project planning takes shape. Different stakeholders will be consulted at different times, and on the aspects that are relevant to them.

As an important stakeholder for Te Papa, we will undertake to keep you updated as the work of our project team progresses and timeframes are established and the process for consultation is developed.

The potential social, cultural and economic benefits of the proposed Centre are immense. It is an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with many other institutions, and it would transform the way in which Te Papa works and its impact upon the Nation.

If you have any questions please contact Bridget MacDonald, Senior Corporate Affairs Adviser, bridgetm@tepapa.govt.nz, 04 381 7071 or either of us.

Mihi mahana, na



Michael Houlihan
Chief Executive



Rhonda Paku
Acting Kaihautū

PRESS RELEASE

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/national-centre-collections-learning-and-touring-proposed-auckland>

7 September, 2013

National centre for collections, learning and touring proposed for Auckland

Culture and Heritage Minister Christopher Finlayson and Auckland Mayor Len Brown today announced an agreement to investigate in association with Te Papa the development of a national centre for cultural collections, exhibitions, education and touring to be situated in Manukau, Auckland.

The Minister and the Mayor say the collaboration between the government and Te Papa along with Auckland Council, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Regional Facilities Auckland and Auckland Art Gallery would create an innovative cultural hub at the heart of New Zealand's most culturally diverse and fastest growing region.

"The centre would improve the accessibility of our national treasures and exhibitions to the community, researchers and other institutions," says Chris Finlayson. "There are enormous educational opportunities to connect our nation's treasures and stories with pre-school to tertiary students, and the learning audience beyond."

The Minister says the centre would also be an exciting opportunity to engage and connect with communities across New Zealand and the world through digital technologies to tell the stories of New Zealand.

The Mayor says Auckland Council is delighted to be part of a nationally significant, community-focussed cultural project.

"This would be a huge economic as well as cultural asset for communities in the south and across Auckland. It would attract visitors from across New Zealand and around the world. We have made a commitment to build the centre in Hayman Park, in the heart of the Manukau city centre and with easy access to all major transport hubs."

Te Papa Chief Executive Michael Houlihan says the museum has been exploring ways to share the nation's collections with communities locally and nationally.

"The Centre would create a hub for Te Papa working alongside the wider museum, arts and research sector. It would present an opportunity for local, regional and national communities to bring together the very best that Auckland and the nation has to offer in terms of art, science, heritage and culture. By working with others, Te Papa will be able to make the experience and collections available to more communities," said Mr Houlihan.

The Centre's activities would promote lifelong learning through community-focused education and exhibition opportunities that reflect New Zealand's new and changing demographics.

The proposed facility would provide a space for exhibitions, an education centre and collections. The purpose-built facility would also house parts of the national collections which are being moved out of storage in Wellington to mitigate the risk of natural hazards like earthquakes.

Its activities would span events, community outreach, research and scholarship, exhibitions, and provide a hub so national and regional collections could be toured around New Zealand.

A working group of partners will commence development of the concept for this state-of-the-art collection and interactive learning space, and will engage with communities and stakeholders during this process.

This work will inform the business case which will be considered by Government later this year.