

**Hon Carmel Sepuloni**  
**Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage**

**Hon Kiri Allan**  
**Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage**

**AIDE MEMOIRE: WAITANGI WEEK 2023 ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE EVENTS**

|                                 |  |                   |          |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------|
| <b>Date:</b>                    | 26 January 2023  | <b>Priority:</b>  | Medium   |
| <b>Security classification:</b> | Sensitive  | <b>Reference:</b> | AM23/006 |
| <b>Contacts:</b>                | Polly O'Brien, Manager Heritage Policy, [REDACTED] 9(2)(a)<br>Laura Forrest, Senior Policy Adviser, [REDACTED] 9(2)(a) |                   |          |

**Purpose**

- 1 Waitangi Week presents a critical opportunity to come together at the birthplace of the nation. As the place where the Treaty of Waitangi was first signed, it is our most significant national heritage site. 2023 marks the 183rd anniversary of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 2 This joint aide memoire provides information to support your attendance at key meetings and events during Waitangi Week 2023, and advice on matters of relevance to the arts, culture and heritage portfolio that may be raised with you.
- 3 Te Arawhiti - the Office for Māori Crown Relations (Te Arawhiti) is coordinating advice to you and relevant Ministers on behalf of the Minister for Māori Crown Relations, the Hon Kelvin Davis, and will provide a full calendar of Waitangi Week events and a run sheet.





**Key Events**

- 4 As Arts, Culture and Heritage Ministers, you are scheduled to attend a number of events at Waitangi from 1-6 February 2023.
- 5 Events with particular relevance to the arts, culture and heritage portfolio are:

| Event                                 | Relevant Minister | Date | Time | Venue                             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------|------|-----------------------------------|
| Waitangi National Trust Board meeting | Minister Sepuloni | TBC  | TBC  | Waitangi Treaty Grounds Boardroom |

|   |                                      |                   |                 |                       |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Event to mark the Clendon Papers' inclusion into the UNESCO Register of the Memory of the World | Minister Sepuloni and Minister Allan | Friday 3 February | 1.30pm – 3.00pm | Clendon House, Rawene |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|

6 The following Manatū Taonga officials will also be at Waitangi to provide advice as required:

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | Laulu Mac Leauanae (Tumu Whakarae   Chief Executive)   |
|   | Mere-Hēni Simcock-Rēweti (Pou Mataaho o Te Pae Huarewa   Deputy Chief Executive Māori Crown Relations) |
|  | Kartini Havell (Pou Arataki o Te Pae Māpuna   Manager, Heritage and Taonga)                            |
|  | Shane Bradbrook (Pou Tohu Mātāmua o Te Pae Huarewa   Principal Advisor, Engagements and Relationships) |

## Next steps

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## Appendices

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**Appendix 1:** Meeting between Minister Sepuloni and Waitangi National Trust Board.

**Appendix 2:** Waitangi National Trust Board members.

**Appendix 3:** Suggested Talking Points for Waitangi National Trust Board meeting.

**Appendix 4:** Event to mark the inclusion of the Clendon Papers in the UNESCO Register of the Memory of the World.

**Appendix 5:** Background information on Manatū Taonga initiatives that support ngā toi Māori and mātauranga Māori.



Polly O'Brien  
Manager, Heritage Policy

Date: 26 January 2023

## **Appendix 1: Waitangi National Trust Board meeting**

9 On  February 2023 the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage is scheduled to meet with members of the Waitangi National Trust Board (the Trust). Manatū Taonga understands the Trust will be represented by Board Chair Pita Tipene, [add representatives here once confirmed]. Manatū Taonga Chief Executive Laulu Mac Leauanae is available to attend. Laulu Mac met with representatives of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds on 18 January 2023.

10 Likely issues for discussion at the meeting are:

- Ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on Waitangi National Trust's operations
- Government funding for 2023/24
- Out of scope

### **Impacts of COVID-19 on Waitangi National Trust's operations**

11 A significant proportion of the Waitangi National Trust's revenue is derived from admission fees and other trading income from domestic and international visitors. Prior to COVID-19 the Trust was self-sufficient and under normal circumstances did not receive any Crown operational funding.

12 The loss of international and domestic visitors due to COVID-19 border restrictions and changes to Alert Levels since 2020 has significantly impacted the Trust's revenue. In 2019 total visitation to the Treaty Grounds was 113,675 compared to 43,088 in 2022 (-62%).

13 The Trust received \$4 million as part of the Vote Arts, Culture and Heritage COVID-19 Cultural Recovery Package in Budget 2020, followed by \$3.6 million for cost pressures through Budget 2021 to ensure Waitangi Treaty Grounds remain open, and to preserve the cultural assets held at the grounds. In 2022, the Trust received a further \$3 million as part of a grouped 2022/23 Budget initiative to support the Cultural Sector from the ongoing effects of COVID-19.

14 The Trust has reported a positive rebound in visitor numbers for October and November 2022, with visitation over the two months representing 80-90% of 2019 visitor numbers, and 53 cruise liners booked for the Bay of Islands between October 2022 and April 2023.

15 However, while overall visitor numbers are starting to increase, inflationary pressures are starting to have an impact on retail and wages. The Trust indicated to Manatū Taonga in November 2022 that due to uncertainty around 2022/23 visitor numbers and ongoing impacts of COVID-19, including on Treaty Grounds staff, it has set its budget conservatively.

- 16 Manatū Taonga has suggested the Trust explores the feasibility of alternative revenue streams across the 506-hectare Waitangi Estate to fund its operations and build a more resilient model.
- 17 The majority of the Waitangi Estate is leased for farming and forestry, with leases to the hotel, golf club, and other recreational amenities. These leases do not provide sufficient return to support the operations of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Similarly, the adjacent Waitangi Endowment Forest does not return revenue to the Trust as originally envisaged.<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED] 9(2)(ba)(i)

### Government funding for 2023/24

- 18 In December 2022 Cabinet approved funding of \$3 million for the Waitangi National Trust as part of the reprioritisation of Manatū Taonga Cultural Recovery Funding for 2023/24. Given this agreed funding, the initiative for Waitangi National Trust Board in the Budget 23 process has now been removed.
- 19 The funding will support the Trust through the ongoing impact of COVID-19 disruptions to travel and tourism and protect the Treaty Grounds and taonga. This funding is based on the Trust's revised forecasts and represents a downward trend in Government funding as the Trust continues to recover from COVID-19 and tourists including cruise passengers return to Waitangi.
- 20 This \$3 million will mean the Waitangi Treaty Grounds will remain open and fully staffed; the services, taonga and heritage assets will be appropriately managed; the Trust will not become insolvent; and the Trust will continue to manage Aotearoa New Zealand's most important historical site as per its statutory obligations. This funding will be publicly announced by Minister Sepuloni. Manatū Taonga will work with the Trust to formalise the funding agreement.
- 21 Manatū Taonga has also offered to work with the Trust on feasibility work to investigate alternative revenue streams, with the intention of ensuring the long-term financial viability of the Treaty Grounds.

### Longer-term funding

- 22 [REDACTED] 9(2)(ba)(i)
- 23 [REDACTED] 9(2)(g)(i)

<sup>1</sup> The Waitangi Endowment Act 1932-22 established the adjacent Waitangi Endowment Forest, managed on trust by the Crown (DoC), and provides for 50% revenue to the Waitangi National Trust Board. In practise, the forest does not generate regular revenue for the Trust.

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## Appendix 2: Waitangi National Trust Board members

| Name                      | Year appointed | Membership description  |
|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| Mr Pita Tipene (Chair)    | 2016           | A member of the family of Maihi Kawiti  |
| Dame Claudia Orange       | 2021           | A person prominent in the life of the country as a statesman                                  |
| Hon Kate Wilkinson        | 2014           | A representative of the people, Pākehā and Māori, living in the South Island                  |
| Hon Peeni Henare          | 2015           | A representative of the Māori people living in the North Auckland peninsula                   |
| Ms Jane Fletcher          | 2016           | A member of the Archdeacon Henry Williams family  |
| Mr Mita Harris            | 2016           | A member of the family of Tāmāti Wāka Nene  |
| Mr Wiremu Puriri          | 2016           | A member of the family of Hōne Heke   |
| Ms Tania Simpson          | 2017           | A member of the family of Pomare  |
| Mr Hugh Cotterill         | 2017           | A representative of the late James Busby  |
| Willow-Jean Prime         | 2020           | Appointed by the Prime Minister to represent the Government                                   |
| Dr Shane Reti             | 2018           | Appointed by the Leader of the Opposition to represent the Opposition                         |
| Mr David Dunsheath        | 2018           | A representative of the family of the late Edward Gibbon Wakefield                            |
| Ngā Wai-hono-i-te-pō Paki | 2020           | A representative of the Māori people living in the North Island south of the city of Auckland |

## Appendix 3: Suggested Talking Points

| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage Meeting with the Waitangi National Trust</b><br/> <b>X February 2023, X.00-X.00 am/pm</b><br/> <b>Waitangi Treaty Grounds: Boardroom</b></p> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Talking points</b>  |
| <p>Financial position of the Waitangi National Trust and ongoing impacts of COVID-19</p>  | <p>Ngā mihi ki a tātou. I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me today, and for hosting us.</p> <p>It is a privilege to be here this week to mark the 183rd anniversary of the signing of Te Tiriti. Waitangi is the birthplace of the nation, and our most significant national heritage site.</p> <p>The Trust, established under the Waitangi National Trust Board Act 1932, is symbolic of the Crown Māori Treaty Partnership commemorated each year during Waitangi Week.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping my officials at Manatū Taonga updated on the Trust's financial situation. I'm reassured that the Trust is in a better financial position and visitor numbers are tracking well.</p> <p>I appreciate the financial constraints you have been under and that the pandemic has had a significant impact on operations, including staff illness.</p> <p>It's great news that cruise ship numbers are steadily increasing, but I acknowledge that it's early days and there is still considerable uncertainty in forecasting.</p> <p>I understand Manatū Taonga has communicated its interest in supporting you to investigate the feasibility of alternative revenue streams. Would you be willing to work with Manatū Taonga on this?</p> <p>It would be helpful to hear how you think the Trust and Manatū Taonga can best work together on this, and what inputs may be required.</p> |
| <p>Cabinet agreed funding</p>   | <p>Thank you for your support with the budget bid. I'm very pleased Cabinet has agreed to reprioritise some of the unspent COVID-19 funding to the Waitangi National Trust Board and having this assured funding to support you through the ongoing effects COVID-19 has had on the Trust's operations.</p> <p>The \$3 million of funding will support the Waitangi National Trust Board through the ongoing impact of</p>   |

COVID-19 disruptions to travel and tourism and protect the Treaty Grounds and taonga.

It is heartening and significant that this funding will help ensure the Waitangi Treaty Grounds remain open and the Trust will continue to manage Aotearoa New Zealand's most important historical site as per its statutory obligations.

Manatū Taonga is keen to continue to work with you through the next stages of the process.

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