



Trade in Taonga Tūturu

From 1 November 2006, the trade in taonga tūturu will be regulated by the Protected Objects Act. The current Antiquities Act has been amended to increase penalties for breaches of the Act. Most other requirements remain unchanged.

Trade

The Protected Objects Act will regulate the trade in taonga tūturu. Taonga tūturu means an object that:

- relates to Maori culture, history, or society; and
- was, or appears to have been: (i) manufactured or modified in New Zealand by Maori; or (ii) brought into New Zealand by Maori; or (iii) used by Maori; and
- is more than 50 years old

Privately owned taonga tūturu can only be purchased by specially licenced dealers, registered collectors of taonga tūturu or museums. Crown owned taonga tūturu can not be traded, sold, gifted or bequeathed.

If you are a licenced dealer –

Only licenced auctioneers or second-hand dealers can be registered with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage to trade in privately owned taonga tūturu. The Ministry has a list of dealers licenced to trade in taonga tūturu on its website.

The procedures that licenced dealers currently have to follow, such as arranging a museum examination of the object before offering it for sale and notifying the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa of sales of taonga tūturu, will not change on 1 November.

The penalty for selling taonga tūturu without being a licenced dealer; or failing to comply with the conditions of being a

licenced dealer; will be a fine of \$10,000 for an individual and \$20,000 for a body corporate – for each taonga tūturu.

If you are a registered collector –

As under the Antiquities Act, a registered collector may only sell privately owned taonga tūturu in their collection to another registered collector, a public museum, or a licenced auctioneer or secondhand dealer. Registered collectors can also gift or bequeath privately owned taonga tūturu in their collection to a relative. The relative does not need to be registered as a collector.

Any changes to a registered collector's collection or the location of that collection must be notified to the Ministry within 14 days.

The penalty for acquiring taonga tūturu without becoming a registered collector; or failing to comply with the conditions of being a registered collector; will be a fine of \$10,000 for an individual and \$20,000 for a body corporate – for each taonga tūturu.

'y' numbers

Privately owned taonga tūturu must be examined and registered by an authorised museum prior to their sale by an auctioneer or dealer. The registration number is marked on the object has the prefix 'y' which means the object is a taonga tūturu and can be sold.

Interested in preserving our nation's heritage?

Want to know more about the Protected Objects Act?

The Ministry is holding 4 one-day seminars in:

- Auckland, 18 October
- Christchurch, 19 October
- Dunedin, 20 October
- Wellington, 24 October

Come along to your nearest meeting to learn more and ask any questions. To find out more and to register, visit our website or contact us.

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