



Internet Auction Sites

As part of our role in administering the Protected Objects Act 1975, the Ministry monitors internet auction sites. You may well have seen our notices posted on auctions on Trade Me, but we also monitor other auction sites, including E Bay.

The following information relates to Trade Me auctions, although we post similar notices on E Bay and other internet auction sites.

Taonga Tūturu

The Ministry closely monitors the sale of taonga tūturu. This is an object that:-

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

On these sales, the Ministry posts this notice :-

I am writing to you regarding the sale of this item and the Protected Objects Act 1975. The Act regulates trade and ownership of Maori taonga tūturu. According to the information you have supplied in your description, the item could come under the Act and this could affect the auction. I would be grateful if you could please contact me, Joanne Rees, urgently at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on (04) 499 4229. (Information is listed in the "Restricted Items" section of Trade Me and at www.mch.govt.nz.)

Once you have contacted us, we will check

the details of the object with you and explain the regulations – taonga tūturu can be sold only to registered collectors, licensed dealers or public museums. If you yourself wish to include the details of the regulations in your auction (some traders already do), this is extremely helpful to us and we do not need to post a notice on your auction.

In order to be able to sell taonga tūturu, it must be privately owned and therefore found after 1976. Some taonga may be already registered with a Y number. If the object does not have a Y number, and falls under the definition of taonga tūturu, the regulations on sale under the Act still apply.

Please note that bidders outside New Zealand cannot become registered collectors and therefore cannot purchase taonga tūturu.

Other Protected Objects

For auctions selling objects that fall under the Act but are not taonga tūturu, we post this notice :-

Please note that the item will require permission from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage if it is to be exported from New Zealand. (Information is listed in the "Restricted Items" section of Trade Me and at www.mch.govt.nz.) If you have any queries, please contact me, Joanne Rees, at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on 04 499 4229.

Although the majority of traders on Trade Me are residents of New Zealand, some are in Australia and permission is required to export protected objects there.

Information and Enforcement

The Ministry relies on many sources for information to prevent breaches of the Act. The Ministry attempts to monitor all sites and areas of sites where protected objects might be sold. However, if you are aware of any items which can be defined as protected objects that are being sold on internet auction sites, please let us know. You can speak to Joanne Rees on (04) 499 4229 or e-mail us at protected-objects@mch.govt.nz. Please provide as much detail as possible.

Staff changes

Our current senior advisor dealing with the Protected Objects Act – Ailsa Cain – leaves the Ministry for a new job at New Zealand Customs this month. A replacement will be appointed in her role shortly. In the meantime, if you have any enquiries regarding the Act, please contact Joanne Rees on 04 499 4229 or joanne.rees@mch.govt.nz.

Don't forget you can always contact the team at protected-objects@mch.govt.nz

