

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

And

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

NATIONAL EREBUS MEMORIAL – ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Date:	21 September 2021	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Reference:	BR2021/528

Minister	Action Sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage	9(2)(f)(iv)	27 September 2021
Hon Carmel Sepuloni Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage		

Contacts			
Name	Position	Contact	1 st Contact
Tamsin Evans	Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery	9(2)(a)	✓
Brodie Stubbs	Manager, Te Pae Mahara		

Minister's office to complete	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined
	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs change
	<input type="checkbox"/> Seen	<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events
	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
Comments:		

Purpose

- 1 During the seven-month delay in starting work on the National Erebus Memorial construction costs have risen, and delay-related costs have been incurred. [REDACTED]
9(2)(f)(iv)

Key messages

- 2 Opposition to the memorial has meant construction could not commence as planned in March 2021.
- 3 Due to the delay in commencing construction the forecast cost to complete the memorial has increased and additional funds are required.
- 4 It is recommended that new funding is provided, (to be drawn down only if required), 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
9(2)(g)(i)

Recommendations to the Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

5 Manatū Taonga recommends that you:

- 1 **Note** that Manatū Taonga has met all the regulatory and other approvals required to build the Erebus memorial at Dove-Myer Robinson Park, but opposition and an occupation of the site has delayed construction.
- 2 **Note** Manatū Taonga has already sourced \$1.110 million for increased Erebus project costs in December 2020 by reprioritising funds from elsewhere within Vote Arts, Culture and Heritage.

3 9(2)(f)(iv)

4 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 5 **Forward** this briefing (BR2021/528) to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, for her consideration. **YES / NO**

9(2)(a)

Tamsin Evans
Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

_____ / _____ / 2021

Recommendations to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

6 The Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage recommends that you:

9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(a)

Tamsin Evans
Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

_____ / _____ / 2021

Background and current status

Opposition to the Memorial

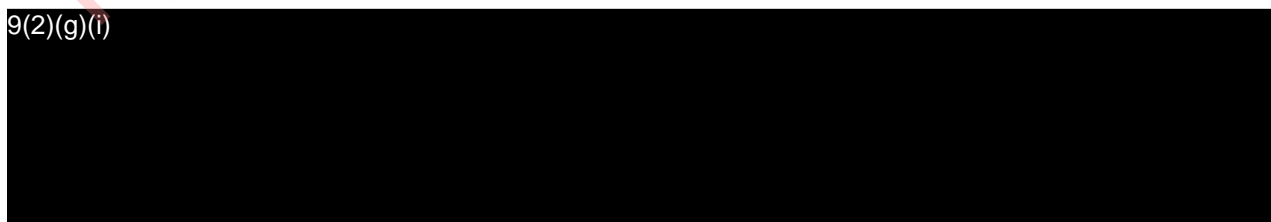
- 7 Construction of the Erebus Memorial is currently on hold because opponents of the project, including Dame Naida Glavish, have been occupying the land in peaceful protest. On 1 March 2021 Manatū Taonga Chief Executive, Bernadette Cavanagh, called a temporary halt on construction to ensure appropriate health and safety protocols were in place, and to allow time to engage further with stakeholders to address their concerns and agree a resolution.
- 8 Over the past 6 months Manatū Taonga has had multiple engagements with Dame Naida. These have not succeeded in changing her position and continued engagement with Dame Naida seems very unlikely to allay her concerns to the extent that she would withdraw her opposition to the Erebus Memorial at Dove Myer Robinson Park.
- 9 On 2 June 2021 a petition was presented by Margaret Brough and others, requesting that the House of Representatives urge the Government to reconsider the location of the memorial. Manatū Taonga is preparing a response (due 30 September) for the Petitions Committee.

Stakeholders

- 10 We continue to work closely with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei [refer to AM 2021/467] recognising them as a critical partner for the success of the project. The Trust reaffirmed their support for the project and the site in early August. Assurances were sought by the Trust, and have been given, that the Memorial will neither damage nor put at risk the long-term health of the taonga pōhutukawa. Officials are arranging a meeting with Auckland Council Cultural Advisor to discuss the approach for cultural aspects such as the blessing of the site and addressing the situation of the rāhui. Close engagement with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei will continue.
- 11 Over the past months, some Erebus family members have contacted the Associate Minister or Manatū Taonga staff seeking assurance about work proceeding and making it clear they are angry, frustrated and disappointed about the current delay. Others have already described the current delay as retraumatising family members.

Construction contract

9(2)(g)(i)



- 13 All conditions required to commence construction have been satisfied. Officials were investigating the possibility of site setup occurring in September, after confirming Naylor Love could make their resources available. However, the latest COVID-19 outbreak has put plans on hold until Alert Levels permit the safe

establishment of the construction site. Construction activity is permitted under Alert Level 3.

Budget

Spend to date and shortfall

- 14 The National Erebus Memorial project was allocated \$3.100 million in 2018 for the design and construction of the memorial. \$2.200 million of this was met through Emerging Priorities Fund, with the remainder from reprioritisation from within Vote Arts Culture and Heritage.
- 15 By December 2020 [refer BR2020/477], due to delays caused by public opposition, design refinements and market cost increases, the budget for construction had a shortfall of \$1.110 million. Manatū Taonga covered this cost by reallocating funding from the Regional Culture and Heritage Fund. This brought the total budget for the memorial to \$4.210 million. To date \$1.600 million has been spent on the memorial, including \$0.211 million of operating costs met from Ministry baseline.

16 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 17 Costs have increased over the life of the project as follows:

	Increase	Total budget
2018		\$3.100 million
December 2020	\$1.110 million	\$4.210 million

9(2)(f)(iv)

- 18 Cost increases to date have been absorbed within the previous budget envelope,

9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(f)(iv)

19 9(2)(f)(iv)

Funding the shortfall

- 20 It is not appropriate to defer this funding until Budget 2022 as construction is expected to be well advanced at that time. 9(2)(g)(i)
- 21 We will only use the funding if it is needed, returning any unspent portion to the centre. We will include this intent in the financial recommendations attached to any funding paper.

As we advised on August 21 (AM2021/467) the options to cover the shortfall are as follows:

Funding Option	Approvals required and timeframe	Benefits and Risks
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9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)

Funding Option	Approvals required and timeframe	Benefits and Risks
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9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)



Next steps

- 23 Manatū Taonga will continue to plan for construction to commence in October and will keep you informed on progress.
- 24 Subject to your decision regarding the shortfall in funding we will prepare a Cabinet Paper.

Appendix 1: Increased costs breakdown

The table below summarises the increase or estimated increase as a result of construction being delayed in March 2021.

9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)

