



TĀMAKI PAENGA HIRA
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
AUCKLAND MUSEUM TRUST BOARD
Horotiu, Auckland Museum
11.30 am, Thursday 21 August 2025**

Present: Ms Rachael Tuwhangai (Chair); Mr Alastair Carruthers (Deputy Chair); Lupematasila Misatauveve Dr Melani Anae; Ms Melissa Firth; Ms Penny Hulse; Mr David V Williams; Mr Paul Spoonley; Mr John Judge and Mr Martin Mariassouce

Apologies: Mr Ben Palmer

Also present: David Reeves, Chief Executive; Director Catherine Smith, People and Organisation; Jignasha Patel, Director Enterprise, Finance and Property Services; Catherine Hammond, Director Collections and Research; Victoria Travers, Director Audience and Engagement; Head of Human History, Chantal Knowles; Curator Taonga Māori, Talei Tu'inukuafe; Head of Collection and Information Access, Zoe Richardson; James Liddell, Executive Officer; Danielle Uniza, Board Secretary

0. Workshops

0.1 Fundraising Feasibility Study

A presentation was given by Jenny Giblin, Funding HQ (external consultant) on the draft fundraising feasibility study results. The final report will be presented at the October Trust Board meeting.

0.2 Asbestos Remediation and Infrastructure Renewal

A presentation was given by the Head of Property Services, Project Manager – Capital Development and Asset Manager on the status of asbestos remediation, and options for infrastructure renewal. A further paper to endorse an infrastructure renewal option will be presented at the December Trust Board meeting. Board members gave feedback on the general direction and approach which will enable refinement of the options for future decisions and approvals.

1. Board only time

The discussion concluded at 12.37pm. No formal decisions or resolutions were made.

Action: Executive and Governance Committee meetings to increase to provide support to the Chief Executive given current climate (including asbestos remediation and financial constraints).

Action: The Chief Executive to provide a list of prioritised capital projects to the next Trust Board meeting, with interim measures to provide relevant visitor experiences ahead of the reopening of the Māori court and Pacific galleries to be given a high priority.

Action: The Chief Executive to develop a programme of vision-setting activities, presentations and physical visits to leading and progressive international museums in order to inform the post-2029 development of the Museum.

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone present and declared the meeting open at 12.38pm.

The order of business was amended to consider the Chief Executive report and the items to be considered en bloc (Items 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17).

5. Chief Executive Report

The Chief Executive provided an update on the Museum's operations and noted that further meetings of the Te Tiriti-led Steering Group was convened following the last Trust Board meeting and workshop. The next steps for the Steering Group will be to consider a revised short and long statement of what it means to be Te Tiriti-led and to scope the development of a roadmap for implementation.

The Trust Board <u>NOTED</u> the Chief Executive Report.
--

Items 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 were considered en bloc.

RESOLUTION (2025/28)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board RESOLVED upon the following items en bloc:

1. Item 11 – Policy Review Program – Capital Expenditure Policy, Protected Disclosures Policy and Risk Management Policy (ADOPTED)
2. Item 12 – Q4 Legislative Compliance Report (NOTED)
3. Item 14 – Audit and Risk Committee update (NOTED)
4. Item 15 – Taumata-ā-iwi update (NOTED)
5. Item 16 – Pacific Advisory Group update (NOTED)
6. Item 17 – Auckland Museum Institute update (NOTED)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting resumed to the normal order of business.

2.1 Apologies

An apology was received from Ben Palmer, and apologies for early departures were received from David V Williams and Paul Spoonley.

2.2 Register of interests

No changes to the Register of Interest were made at the meeting.

3. Actions from previous meeting

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the action register and noted that 6 of 17 outstanding actions were recommended for closure.

The Trust Board NOTED the status of actions from the previous meeting.

Action: Action 1 relating to a behind-the-scenes TV show for the Centenary Project was deemed no longer a high priority and to be removed from the actions register.

4. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLUTION (2025/29)

Moved David V Williams, **Seconded** Alastair Carruthers

The Trust Board:

1. CONFIRMED the minutes for the meeting held on 24 April 2025 and 26 June 2025 as a true and accurate record.
2. AGREED to publish the open minutes on the Auckland Museum's website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action: A process for formally recording other Trust Board activity (e.g. Asbestos Briefings, Te Tiriti-Led Steering Group, etc.) to be developed.

Mr Paul Spoonley departed the meeting at 12.58pm and did not return.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION

RESOLUTION (2025/30)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** Melani Anae

That the Trust Board RESOLVED to exclude the public from the following items:

1. **Item 6 – FY26 budget reforecast and 4-year financial projections** under section 7(2)(i) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* as this is necessary to ‘carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial or industrial negotiations)’.
2. **Item 7 – Online collections redevelopment programme of work** under section 7(2)(i) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* as this is necessary to ‘carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial or industrial negotiations)’.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Items 6 and 7 were held in closed session by resolution of the Trust Board in accordance with the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Items 8 and 9 were considered next before proceeding to the normal order of business.

Mr David V Williams left the meeting and 2.26pm and did not return.

8. Annual Insurance Renewal

The Director Enterprise, Finance and Property Services, and the Head of Finance, provided an update on the cost of insurance referencing the renewal report provided by Marsh.

RESOLUTION (2025/32)

Moved John Judge, **Seconded** Alastair Carruthers

The Trust Board:

1. RECEIVED this paper along with the attached full insurance renewal report
2. APPROVED insurance renewal proposal detailed in the Marsh Report (**Attachment 1**)
3. DELEGATED authority to the Chief Executive and Board Chair to approve the Museum’s insurance renewal for the period 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Deaccession proposal for Maraekōwhai Mouri Stone

The Head of Human History and Curator Taonga Māori provided an overview of the deaccession proposal for the Maraekōwhai Mouri Stone and the request for a formal apology to be issued. As the issue raised in the report related primarily to the day-to-day operations of the Museum, the Chief Executive was deemed the most appropriate person to issue the formal apology.

RESOLUTION (2025/33)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai **Seconded** Penny Hulse

The Trust Board:

1. APPROVED the deaccession of a mouri stone (38875 / 1970.71 / 54362) from the collection of Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum ('AWMM', 'the Museum') and repatriation to the Maraekōwhai Whenua Trust, and
2. AGREED to issue a formal apology to Maraekōwhai Whenua Trust for AWMM's retention of this taonga despite repeated requests for its return over the last 70 years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION (2025/34)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board ENDORSED that the Chief Executive issue the formal apology to Maraekōwhai Whenua Trust.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr Martin Mariassouce left the meeting at 3pm and did not return.

7. Online collections redevelopment programme of work

The Director of Collections and Research and the Head of Collections Information Access provided an update on planned infrastructure upgrades for the Online Cenotaph and Collections Online. It was noted that these upgrades will enable faster and more accurate searches and provide a more stable and reliable service for users. It was noted at the meeting that estimated costs for the API appear high; management advised that the costs were estimates and the procurement process has yet to commence.

As the overall project costs meet the capital expenditure threshold monitoring under the Audit and Risk Committee, further detail on the project delivery and expenditure to be reported to that body.

RESOLUTION (2025/35)

Moved Melissa Firth, **Seconded** John Judge

That the Trust Board:

1. ADOPTED the proposed Online Collections Redevelopment Programme direction
2. AGREED to the five-year capital investment plan totalling \$1.05 million (FY2025–FY2030)
3. APPROVED expenditure of \$550,000 in FY2025/2026 to support infrastructure implementation
4. NOTED the in-progress Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund grant application which, if successful, will offset some of the costs of this redevelopment
5. DELEGATED oversight to the Chief Executive for phased delivery and reporting
6. DIRECTED the Executive Team to produce 12-month progress reports to the Audit and Risk Committee for the duration of the programme.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Actions: A project plan, including breakdown of costs, to be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee as part of its capital project monitoring and oversight role.

13. Schedule of meetings for 2026

The Executive Officer provided an overview of the proposed Trust Board meeting schedule for 2026. The Board noted that bimonthly meetings may not provide sufficient frequency while monthly meetings may be too frequent. It was suggested that 6-weekly meetings be considered as a potential alternative.

Further discussion was on clarifying which matters should be included on agendas, the possibility of shorter meetings and the option of alternating between online and in-person formats. The Executive Officer was asked to provide options for revised scheduling and meeting structures, with any agreed changes to be implemented going forward.

The Trust Board Deferred consideration of this item to the next meeting.

Action: A further report be presented to the 3 September extraordinary meeting to increase the cadence of Trust Board meetings, giving consideration to the nature of meetings, attendance format and meeting length.

The following items were resolved en bloc at the beginning of the meeting.

10. Health and Safety report for June and July 2025

EN BLOC RESOLUTION (2025/28/1)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board NOTED the contents of the Health and Safety reports for June and July 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Policy Review Program – Capital Expenditure, Protected Disclosures and Risk Management Policy

EN BLOC RESOLUTION (2025/28/2)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board:

1. ADOPTED the Capital Expenditure Policy (as presented in **Attachment 1**)
2. ADOPTED the Protected Disclosures Policy (as presented in **Attachment 2**)
3. ADOPTED the Risk Management Policy (as presented in **Attachment 3**)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Legislative Compliance Report from January to June 2025

EN BLOC RESOLUTION (2025/28/3)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board:

1. NOTED the breaches of legislation and policy as outlined in the report.
2. NOTED the actions taken to remedy the breaches as outlined in the report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Audit and Risk Committee update

EN BLOC RESOLUTION (2025/28/4)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board NOTED the update from the Audit and Risk Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Pacific Advisory Group update

EN BLOC RESOLUTION (2025/28/5)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board NOTED the update from the Pacific Advisory Group.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. Taumata-ā-iwi update

EN BLOC RESOLUTION (2025/28/6)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board NOTED the update from the Taumata-ā-iwi.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. Auckland Museum Institute update

EN BLOC RESOLUTION (2025/28/7)

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board NOTED the update from the Auckland Museum Institute.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. Meeting close

The Chairperson thanked members for their attention to business and declared the meeting closed at 3.29 pm.