



TĀMAKI PAENGA HIRA
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
AUCKLAND MUSEUM TRUST BOARD
Boardroom, Te Kahu
12.30pm, Wednesday 3 September 2025**

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

Apologies: Nil

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; Te Arepa Morehu, Tumuaki Māori; James Liddell, Executive Officer; Danielle Uniza, Board Secretary

1. Welcome

Following a karakia by Te Arepa Morehu, the Chair welcomed everyone present and declared the meeting open at 12.37pm.

2. Procedures

2.1 Apologies

There were no apologies received for the meeting.

2.2 Register of interests

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

The order of business was amended to consider Item 4 as a matter of priority.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION

4. FY26 Budget Reforecast and Forward Projections – Impact of Proposed Organisational Changes

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the proposed cost mitigation activities, as detailed in the report. The proposed package contains \$2.4 million in staff costs which is higher than the previously proposed \$2 million target. The next steps, should the renewed proposal be endorsed by the Trust Board, includes an all-staff meeting, a briefing with key stakeholders from Auckland Council (including notification to the Mayor's office), and a proactive media advisory release.

Mr Ben Palmer joined the meeting at 12.43pm.

Key messaging relating to the proposed organisational changes were discussed at the meeting. It was emphasised that the current proposal will not be enough to deliver financial sustainability – this will need to be combined with a necessary capital injection to maintain the heritage value and core infrastructure of the building, and to support longer-term major renewal of galleries. Advocacy efforts to secure this capital funding will need progress as soon as possible and must be supported by a clear long-term Capital Plan. It was agreed that the currently proposed cost savings were essential to stabilise the Museum's financial position ahead of any further funding discussions.

RESOLUTION 2025/36

Moved John Judge, **Seconded** Ben Palmer

That the Trust Board:

1. ENDORSES a minimum \$2.4 million reduction in staff costs as detailed in the report.
2. ENDORSES a \$1.6 million reduction in operating costs.
3. ENDORSES the revised FY26 budget, including the indicative budget and strategic changes for outer years as detailed in the report.
4. ENDORSES the development of the FY27 draft Annual Plan based on the budgeted figures detailed in Points 1 and 2, and the indicative budget and strategic changes for outer years as detailed in the report.
5. DIRECTS that a Capital Plan be developed and presented to the Trust Board at its December 2025 meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr Martin Mariassouce left the meeting at 1.41pm and did not return.

5. Material hardship provisions of the Council-Museum funding agreement and the 2026/27 Draft Annual Plan

The Executive Officer provided an overview of the paper and noted that management did not support activating the material hardship clause in the funding agreement. Members agreed and reiterated their support for developing a compelling case for an uplift in public investment timed with Council's Long-term Plan process.

RESOLUTION 2025/37

Moved Alastair Carruthers, **Seconded** Rachael Tuwhangai

That the Trust Board:

1. NOTES the report.
2. AGREES not to activate the material financial hardship provisions in the Council-Museum funding agreement for 2026/27.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Schedule of meeting for 2026 – Options

The Executive Officer provided an overview of the options presented in the paper. It was noted by the Deputy Chair that if Option 1 is endorsed, supplementary meetings will be needed to deal with current and emerging issues. Management was advised that it will need to be ready to hold further extraordinary Trust Board meetings.

RESOLUTION 2025/38

Moved David V Williams, **Seconded** Paul Spoonley

That the Trust Board:

1. ADOPTS Option 1 of the Board and Committee meeting days as set out in the report.
2. AUTHORISES the Trust Board Chair to amend the schedule of meetings for 2026 if required, following consultation with Trust Board members.
3. SUPPORTS the provision of delegation to certain Committees as part of reviews to their Terms of References to be conducted in October and November 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLUTION 2025/39

Moved Rachael Tuwhangai, **Seconded** John Judge

The Trust Board:

1. CONFIRMED the minutes for the meeting held on 21 August 2025 as a true and accurate record.
2. AGREED to publish the open minutes on the Auckland Museum's website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Meeting close

The Chairperson thanked members for their attention to business and declared the meeting closed at 1.53pm.