

TAMAKI PAENGA HIRA
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

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20 September 2016

Councillor Mike Lee
Chair of Working Group

Dear Councillor Lee,

Following the World War One Political Steering group meeting on 5 September 2016, Auckland War Memorial Museum has been invited to provide a letter of support in respect of the proposed World War One Memorial in the Domain.

As context, the Museum has worked closely with Auckland Council throughout the WW1 centenary; the public programme 'He Toa Taumata Rau Courage Has Many Resting Places' has been a joint initiative. A number of successful exhibitions and events have been delivered. The Museum's first production during the centenary period 'Entangled Islands' has since been donated to the Museum of Samoa.

The Museum also committed to a number of capital projects and secured external financial support including from the Lottery Grants Board. Our objective has been to invest strategically, with legacies for the benefit of the people of Auckland. The projects include new galleries the first of which opens in November 2016, Pou Maumahara Memorial Discovery Centre.

The Museum provided a letter of support for the application by Auckland Council to the Lottery Grants Board in December 2015. While deliberately neutral to the consultation process for the memorial, we have articulated our general aspirations for the new feature, making a number of points which are summarised here.

- First, the principle of a commemorative memorial enjoys positive support. It would capitalise on the investment to date by the Museum and the Lottery Grants Board; and could provide the people of Auckland with an important place for reflection and commemoration.
- Secondly, we favour functional simplicity, complementary to and integrated with the Cenotaph and Museum building, and accessible for all, physically and emotionally. We support the design brief, which specified a physical link between the new commemorative feature and the Court of Honour, reflecting the original vision for the setting in the Domain.

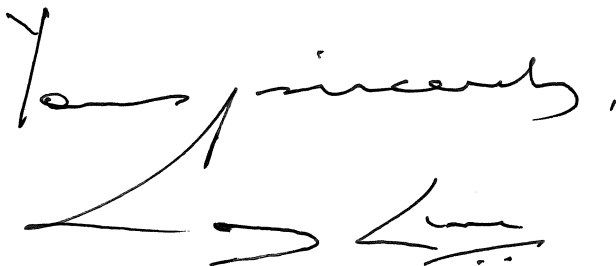
- Thirdly, the Museum has consistently expressed support for interventions that can provide for the commemoration of sacrifices by Aucklanders in successive conflicts. We believe these should cater for the needs of a wide range of communities, many of whom have already represented their respective cases to the Museum and to Auckland Council.

Against that background, as a key stakeholder the Museum continues to endorse the principle of the proposed commemorative feature.

In terms of the emerging concept, we note however that the project has yet to describe a solution that connects the commemorative memorial with the Court of Honour. We are also not aware of the response that is envisaged to those groups seeking distinctive space for their own particular reflection and commemoration. Importantly, we acknowledge that the project would require a major public fundraising campaign if it is to be completed.

While maintaining neutrality in relation to the decision-making process, the Museum urges that the conceptual issues are resolved as soon as possible; and that detailed attention is given to the constitution of an appropriate means for raising funds in a fashion that is consistent with other commemorative initiatives that are already underway.

I am available to discuss the matter with you and your Committee at any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Clare', written in a cursive style.

Roy Clare CBE
Director
Auckland War Memorial Museum