

12 March 2019

Stephen Town  
Chief Executive  
Auckland Council  
35 Albert Street  
Auckland

Dear Stephen

**Statutory Levy 2019/20  
Auckland War Memorial Museum (AWMM)**

As you are aware, AWMM was created through the Auckland War Memorial Museum Act 1996 (the Act). The Act sets out the objectives of AWMM, the Draft Annual Plan (DAP) process and the levy mechanism for Auckland Council's contribution to AWMM's funding.

Under the Act, the Museum is required to prepare and consult on the DAP. The AWMM DAP 2019/20 has been published for public consultation as per the Act. Under an Advisory and Management Agreement, Regional Facilities Auckland (RFA) is required to consider the DAP and make a submission on the document. A written and verbal submission was made by RFA within the statutory timeframes for consultation.

The RFA submission covered a wide range of areas, with ongoing correspondence between AWMM and RFA during the development of the plan. As a result, the Museum has provided additional clarity in the DAP, with prior year comparisons and planned capital expenditure by asset class.

RFA will continue to work with the Museum on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be included in future DAPs, pending consultation by the Museum with the Taumata-ā-Iwi in relation to Māori outcomes, and its Asset Management Plan.

The Annual Plan sets out at a high level the activities the Museum is looking to undertake during the plan year. The plan is supported by the following documents:

1. *Future Museum*
2. Five Year Strategic Plan
3. Research Strategy
4. He Korahi Māori: A Māori Dimension at Auckland Museum
5. Teu le Vā: The Pacific Dimension at Auckland Museum.

These documents can be accessed at <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/your-museum/about-us>. In support of the levy request the Museum also provided an economic costs and benefits analysis undertaken by the Museum for FY17/18. This is attached for information.

In September 2018, Auckland Museum received accreditation into the Rainbow Tick programme. The Museum is currently working on a major capital programme which includes refreshed public spaces, improved connectivity, wayfinding, new galleries and a special exhibition hall as well as an improved hospitality precinct with a refreshed food and beverage offer. From March 2019, the South Atrium will be closed to allow work to take place safely. The capital works will also enable the Museum to grow its self-generated revenue.

The balance sheet of the Museum continues to be strong and the DAP supports increased engagement by Aucklanders – onsite, offsite and online – as well as the ongoing care of the Museum’s collections and the capital programme.

The AWMM Board has considered the submissions it received in relation to the DAP and the final version is attached for Auckland Council’s consideration. This year the Museum took additional steps to engage with the community on the plan including an article in “Our Auckland”.

### **Museum funding**

RFA looks forward to continuing to work with Auckland Council on the Cultural Heritage Review, and supports the ongoing funding of the Museum as an important cultural heritage asset for Auckland and New Zealand. We also continue to support the Museums of Auckland initiative of which the museum is part.

The levy indicated within the final Draft Annual Plan is \$32.29m. RFA supports the proposed levy and recommends to Council the approval of the levy (which is under the AWMM levy cap). However, we are cognisant that the final decision is a matter for consideration and agreement by Auckland Council.

RFA will continue to provide advice and support to the Mayor and Auckland Council as the process continues.

Yours sincerely



Chris Brooks  
**Chief Executive**

*Attached: Auckland War Memorial Museum Final Draft Annual Plan and Auckland War Memorial Museum Economic Costs and Benefits*

cc:

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Edward Siddle Principal Adviser, CCO Governance