

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

NATIONAL EREBUS MEMORIAL – APPROVAL OF DESIGN

Date:	14 March 2019	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Reference:	BR2019/111

Minister	Action Sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Arts, Culture and Heritage	Agree to the recommended design for the National Erebus Memorial	22 March 2019

Contacts			
Name	Position	Contact	1st Contact
Becky MacNeill	Deputy Chief Executive Delivery	9 (2) (a)	
Brodie Stubbs	Manager Memorials and Taonga	9 (2) (a)	✓

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 Withdrawn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 This briefing supports your upcoming meeting with the Mayor of Auckland where you will discuss the recommended design for the National Erebus Memorial and seeks your approval for the recommended design.

Key Messages

- 2 The National Erebus Memorial design selection panel met on 12 and 13 March to consider the six short-listed designs for the memorial. A final design was selected for your approval. This design has the unanimous endorsement of the panel.
- 3 Under the governance arrangements for this project, you approve the final design in consultation with the Mayor of Auckland. You are due to meet with the Mayor on 22 March and approval of the memorial design is on the agenda. A copy of the relevant material has been provided to the Mayor in confidence ahead of this meeting.
- 4 If you approve the design, MCH will work with your office, and potentially Mayor Goff's office, to prepare an announcement.

Recommendations

- 5 The Ministry for Culture and Heritage recommends that you:
 - 1 **Note** that the National Erebus Memorial design selection panel has assessed six design concepts for the memorial. YES / NO
 - 2 **Note** that the design titled *Te Paerangi Ataata (Sky Song)* has been selected by the panel as the recommended design. YES / NO
 - 3 **Note** that feedback on all six designs received from Auckland Council and the Waitemata Local Board indicates that the recommended design will be supported by the Board and Council. YES / NO
 - 4 **Note** that if you approve the recommended design MCH will work with your office to prepare an announcement. YES / NO
 - 5 **Approve** the recommended design following consultation with the Mayor of Auckland. YES / NO

9(2)(a)



Becky MacNeill
Deputy Chief Executive Delivery

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

____ / ____ / 2019

Background

- 6 On 7 December six design teams were selected through an expression of interest exercise to submit concept designs. The designs were submitted on 13 February. The six designs were published on the Ministry's website and the families were invited to provide feedback on each of the designs. Their comments were provided to the design selection panel.
- 7 The panel (Tim Melville, architect; Elizabeth Ellis, arts administrator; Brad Coombs, landscape architect, Anna Harley, urban designer and chaired by Paul James) met on 12 and 13 March to consider the six designs with the aim of recommending one to you for approval. Two family members, Kathryn Carter, elder daughter of Captain Jim Collins and Dan Maloney, son of flight engineer Nick Maloney, joined the panel for this meeting. Kathryn and Dan both expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the design selection and the other members valued their input and the perspective they were able to bring to the discussions.
- 8 Over the two days, each of the designs were given careful consideration before a final design was selected for your approval. A summary of the panel's analysis of each of the designs follows:
- 9 Summary of design feedback:

Design	Panel feedback
 <p>1. Te Paerangi Ataata – Sky Song</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bold and challenging design that reflects the enormity of the tragedy. • A 'light touch' on the site with minimal impact on the site's existing terraces. • Reflects the enormity of the tragedy. • Invokes thoughts of life, adventure and anticipation. • Provides the ability to touch the passenger and crew names. • No significant concerns and this is the recommended design
 <p>2. Te Hau – The Breath</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journey through site creates a contemplative environment. • Creates a sense of the vast whiteness of Antarctica. • Provides the ability to touch the passenger and crew's names. <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large impact on the site requiring a great deal of excavation – scale is too big for the site. • Focus inward and does not take advantage of the views of water or sky.



3. Waypoint

- A powerful statement design with navigational points showing the connection between volcanoes; Rangitoto and Mt Erebus.
- The surrounding wall creates a feeling of embrace and reflection.
- Provides the ability to touch the passenger and crew names.
- A lot of interactive aspects for information.

However:

- The memorial is very urban and does not fit in the natural park setting.
- Out of scale for the site.

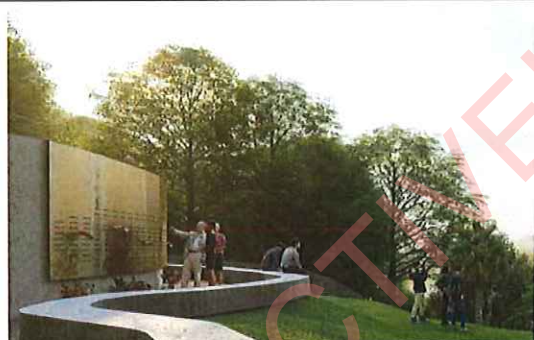


4. Te Maunga Huka

- The star constellation concept is strong and compelling.
- Creates a considerate and contemplative space.

However:

- Sharp edges oppose the natural form of the site.
- No ability to touch the passengers' names.
- Health and safety concerns with the sharp edges and water.



5. Maunga/Kohanga, Mountain/Nest

- A strong statement memorial wall.
- Well researched concepts and very informative.
- Provides the ability to touch the passenger and crew names.

However:

- Major excavation is required.
- Aspects of the design appear unresolved.
- Limited access – one small entry path.



6. Roimata Toroa - Tears of the Albatross

- A strong feather cloak concept with bi-cultural references to embracing and comfort.
- Design engages well with the massive pohutukawa tree onsite.
- Provides the ability to touch the passenger and crew names.

However:

- The memorial itself seems too small to represent the subject matter.
- Lacks depth of engagement to site and context - the wall obstructs the view and the setting.
- No seating provided.

Recommended Design – *Te Paerangi Ataata – Sky Song*

Assessment of the design

- 10 The design brief called for the memorial to pay respect to those who died but also to express the sense of adventure, exploration and enjoyment that the passenger and crew on the flight would have felt. *Te Paerangi Ataata - Sky Song (Sky Song)* manages these competing emotions in a sensitive and engaging way. The main element of *Sky Song* is a walkway which projects outward to the horizon emphasising a view of the sky: the lost departed into the sky and their adventure was in the sky; the families waited, looking to the sky.
- 11 The design draws the visitor along a walkway towards the horizon evoking the sense of adventure, excitement and exhilaration the passenger and crew must have felt and enjoyed. One wall is stainless steel from which are cut 257 unique snowflakes, the cut-outs of each will be given to family members. After pausing at the end of the walkway, the visitor will turn to start the inward journey and the names of those who were lost are revealed engraved on the wall.
- 12 The overall assessment of the panel is that *Sky Song* is the design which best meets the requirements of the design brief and responds particularly well to the hopes for the memorial expressed by family members in the survey conducted in 2018. In summary, the panel assessed that *Sky Song*:
 - is a bold and challenging design that reflects the enormity of the tragedy while at the same time provides a strong sense of the excitement and adventure that would have been felt by the passenger and crew on TE901
 - has a strong narrative and will provide an engaging experience for visitors to the memorial
 - provides a sanctuary within its walls evoking the emptiness left by those who lost their lives
 - provides for an intergenerational connection and interaction through the 257 laser-cut stainless steel snowflakes which will be given to families.
 - sits lightly on what is a sensitive site and does not dominate it.
- 13 The panel has some questions for the design team but nothing which calls into question the appropriateness of the design or which would provoke any significant change from the concept design.

The Design Team

- 14 The team behind the design is Wellington firm Studio Pacific Architecture with artist Jason O'Hara and musician Warren Maxwell. Studio Pacific Architecture have previously worked on the New Zealand Memorial in Canberra, New Zealand's Tomb of the Unknown Warrior (and other work at the National War Memorial) and the He Tohu exhibition at National Library.

Compliance with Local Authority Requirements

- 15 Both Auckland Council and Waitemata Local Board provided feedback on each of the six designs before the design selection panel met. Both the council and the local board provided positive comments on the recommended design.

Consultation

- 16 The Mayor of Auckland has also been provided with the above information in preparation for your meeting with him on 22 March.

Next steps

- 17 You have agreed that you will make a decision on the final design for the memorial after consultation with the Mayor and you are due to meet with the Mayor of Auckland on 22 March. Brodie Stubbs, Manager of Memorials and Taonga at the Ministry will already be in Auckland on other business and is available to attend the meeting to provide further information on the selection process, the recommended design and next steps.
- 18 If you approve the design, the Ministry will work with your office on an announcement. Following the precedent of previous announcements of major waypoints on this project, it is proposed that you do this jointly with the Mayor, possibly at the memorial site. We will also contact the successful team so we are able to include them in any announcement. The other design teams will be told that they have not been selected but we not reveal the identity of the winning team.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Images of the recommended design *Sky Song*.

Appendix 1: Images of Sky Song design

