

Hon Grant Robertson
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Oral item: Dominion Museum Building
23 January 2020

Date: 23 January 2020

Title: Oral item: Dominion Museum Building

Author: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

These documents have been proactively released:

- SWC-19-MIN-0175 Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee Minute of Decision: Oral Item: Dominion Museum Building
- CAB-19-MIN-0594 Cabinet Minute of Decision: Period ending 15 November 2019, with coversheet.
- AIDE MEMOIRE: AM2019/579: Outstanding report back to Social Wellbeing Committee on matters related to the Dominion Museum Building dated 7 November 2019.

Some parts of this response would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Oral Item: Dominion Museum Building

Portfolio Associate Arts, Culture and Heritage (Hon Grant Robertson)

On 13 November 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1 **noted** that on 15 August 2018, the Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage (the Minister) will report back to SWC in November 2019 with an update on the proposed decommission and make-good works and any fiscal implications not met through the existing appropriation [SWC-18-MIN-0097];
- 2 **noted** the report back by the Minister on the decommission and make-good works of the Dominion Museum building.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Aupito William Sio
Jan Logie, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SWC
Office of the Chair

Hard-copy distribution:

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage (Hon Grant Robertson)



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 15 November 2019

On 18 November 2019, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee for the period ended 15 November 2019:

PROACTIVE RELEASE

SWC-19-MIN-0175 **Oral Item: Dominion Museum Building** CONFIRMED
Portfolio: Associate Arts, Culture and Heritage
(Hon Grant Robertson)



Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

PROACTIVE RELEASE

Hon Grant Robertson
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

**AIDE MEMOIRE: Outstanding report back to Social Wellbeing
Committee on matters related to the Dominion Museum Building.**

Date:	7 November 2019	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Reference:	AM2019/579
Contact	David Kidman, Manager Finance & Strategic Planning, 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]		

Purpose

- 1 To provide you with an update on the process to make-good the Dominion Museum Building and to provide talking points to provide an oral item to meet the overdue report back to the Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC).

Report to SWC on 15 August 2018

- 2 You previously reported to SWC on 15 August 2018 that efforts to extend the lease to allow the Great War Exhibition (GWE) to remain open had failed and that plans were now in place to decommission the GWE and make good the building (in accordance with the terms of our lease) for its return to Massey.
- 3 As part of the report back you agreed that you would provide a further update to SWC on the progress of the make good works. Discussions with the Clerk to the Committee have confirmed that an oral report back will be sufficient. Speaking points for the meeting are provided as Annex 1.

Making good the Dominion Museum Building

- 4 On 4 December 2018 work commenced to remove the content of the Great War Exhibition and then make good the building to return it to Massey University.
- 5 Extraction of the exhibition was completed by Wingnut films on behalf of Sir Peter Jackson. The items were removed in such a way that they could be re-displayed at another venue should Sir Peter choose to do so.
- 6 The works had expected to be completed by 30 June 2019 however some materials needed had long lead-in times and a section of firewall had to be specially made to match the existing section. This meant that the works on site were not completed until the end of August 2019. The lease was extended to reflect this.
- 7 In discussions with Massey University it was agreed that much of the flooring would not be replaced at this time. Instead we agreed a settlement for this and any other remaining works. Reaching an agreement has taken some time as the parties sought independent advice.

- 8 The final steps are the Code Compliance Certificate to be issued by Wellington City Council and for the lease to be formally ended. This will happen by the end of November at the latest.
- 9 The total cost of the decommissioning and make good is below the amount provisioned. The final figure will be known in December once all outstanding billing is concluded.

Outstanding Public Works Act Claim

- 10 There is an outstanding Public Works Act claim made by the joint owners of the Dominion Museum Building, Massey University and Capital Hill Limited. This compensation claim relates to an easement taken by the Crown pursuant to the National War Memorial Park (Pukeahu) Empowering Act 2012 and the 'injurious affection' to the land retained by the owners due to the development of Pukeahu. The claim was put on hold during the term of the lease.
- 11 We are awaiting notification from Land Information New Zealand on the status of this claim. There is currently no confirmed time frame for this.

PROACTIVE RELEASE

Talking Points for SWC

Decommissioning the Great War Exhibition

- Work to decommission the Great War Exhibition commenced on 4 December 2018.
- All of the exhibition content was extracted by Wingnut Films personnel on behalf of Sir Peter Jackson.
- Most of the content was extracted in such a way that it could be reinstated at a new location should Sir Peter Jackson choose to do so.
- It was not possible to remove the Trench Experience intact as it had been purpose built for the space, however all of the technology was removed and could be used to recreate a new trench experience elsewhere.
- The decommissioning process was completed in February 2019 when the large items were extracted, by crane, from the building.

Make-good of the Dominion Museum Building

- The make-good process started in January 2019 alongside the decommissioning work.
- The make-good process was complicated as many of the original construction plans had been changed during the building of the exhibition.
- We also discovered that not all of the building's features (such as a metal and glass fire wall) had been removed intact and retained which meant new items had to be designed, ordered and constructed.
- We were not able to complete the work in June as expected due to the complex process to remove the underlying construction of the exhibition (for example 24km of nailed and glued timber structures were in place).
- Throughout the work we maintained a good relationship with the building owners and this collaborative approach allowed us to further extend the lease to the end of August to complete the works.
- Whilst the work took longer than expected it did come within the allocated budget.