

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

50th anniversary of Māori language petition Cabinet material

21 October 2021

Date: 29 September 2021

Title: Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Māori language petition

Author: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

These documents have been proactively released by the Minister. This package includes the Cabinet material listed below.

Title: Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee paper “Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Māori language petition”

Some parts of this information release 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.

Key to redactions:

9(2)(f)(iv): the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials

## In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Māori language petition

### Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks agreement to designate the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Māori language petition and Māori Language Day as a Tier 1 anniversary on the government's 2022 commemorations programme.

### Relation to government priorities

- 2 This is not directly related to government priorities. In 2014, Cabinet agreed that Tier 1 anniversaries would require approval by Cabinet.

### Background

- 3 The government's policy on commemoration of one-off historical anniversaries and the list of anniversaries to be commemorated were created in 2009 and reviewed and updated in 2014 [SOC Min (14) 9/2]. The list is divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2 anniversaries. Tier 1 (major) anniversaries relate to events whose impact was felt throughout the nation or changed New Zealand significantly. They are considered to merit a significant level of whole-of-government involvement. Tier 2 (other) anniversaries are still of national significance but had less impact on New Zealand society. In 2014, Cabinet agreed that Tier 1 anniversaries would be approved by Cabinet, whereas Tier 2 anniversaries would be approved by the Interdepartmental Steering Committee on Commemorations (ISCC).<sup>1</sup> Appendix B contains the list of 2014-2021 anniversaries for your information.
- 4 The purpose of the policy and list of anniversaries is to allow planning and coordination between public service agencies and other organisations to take place, improving the efficiency and impact of commemorative activity. The Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) administers the commemorations policy, with oversight from the ISCC. The policy does not cover annual commemorations (such as Anzac Day and Waitangi Day) except on significant anniversaries.
- 5 In March 2020, the former Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage agreed for MCH to seek the views of iwi/Māori (as Treaty partners) and public service agencies on an extended list of anniversaries and a proposed refresh of the commemorations policy. Following delays caused by the response to the

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<sup>1</sup> The ISCC includes representatives from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of Education, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Defence Force, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. A refresh of the commemorations policy proposes to extend membership to the Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Women and Ministry for Ethnic Communities.

COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry began engagement with these stakeholders in July 2021.

- 6 While engagement on the commemorations policy refresh is ongoing, I have agreed to extend the current policy through to 2022. This will allow sufficient time for agencies to prepare commemorative activities next year and ensure there is no gap in the commemorations programme while the policy is refreshed. The proposed list of 2022 anniversaries (attached as Appendix A) includes one anniversary that meets the Tier 1 anniversary criteria.

### **The government commemorates important historical events**

- 7 Commemorations offer an opportunity to bring people together in physical and virtual spaces to reflect on the past and its relevance to the present. They play an important role in broader cultural objectives of fostering individual and collective identities in Aotearoa New Zealand, and promoting the value of our history and traditions.
- 8 Anniversaries on the government's commemorations programme are generally:
- of significance to the nation as a whole
  - of events that took place in New Zealand, involved New Zealanders or have a clear connection to New Zealand
  - a multiple of 25 years since the event in question (e.g. 25th, 50th, 100th anniversaries)
  - representative of the diversity of New Zealanders' historical experiences.

### **New Zealanders have opportunities to participate in commemorations**

- 9 MCH coordinates commemorative activities with interested state sector agencies, local government, iwi and community organisations. Commemorations can be achieved through various forms, including ceremonies or other events, media items, new website content, publications and social media posts.
- 10 Government commemorations do not receive additional funding but are instead primarily delivered through agencies' baseline budgets. Any additional funding may be sought separately by agencies through Budget bids.
- 11 The Ministry explores opportunities for Ministerial involvement with agencies responsible for leading commemorations.

### **2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Māori language petition**

- 12 The ISCC has identified the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Māori language petition and Māori Language Day as a potential Tier 1 anniversary for inclusion on the government's 2022 commemorations programme.
- 13 I recommend Cabinet designates the above as a Tier 1 anniversary as it has been assessed as meeting the criteria of having an impact that was 'felt

throughout the nation or changed New Zealand significantly'. The petition, supported by 30,000 signatories, was presented to Parliament on 14 September 1972, calling for courses in Māori language and culture to be offered in New Zealand schools. The petition became a pivotal flash point for the revitalisation of te reo Māori, including the creation of Māori Language Day later that year. Affording this event Tier 1 status under the existing commemorations policy would suitably acknowledge the significant contribution it has made to the furthering of te reo Maori aspirations in New Zealand.

- 14 MCH has held initial discussions with some organisations who have a significant interest in te reo and the Māori language petition, including Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori – Māori Language Commission (Te Taura Whiri), Te Mātāwai and the Māori Language Society. Any government commemorative activities would be led by Te Taura Whiri, involve multiple agencies, and be delivered through baseline budgets.
- 15 If Cabinet does not designate this as a Tier 1 anniversary, it will remain on the 2022 schedule as a Tier 2 anniversary.

#### **The commemorations policy is being refreshed**

- 16 MCH is leading a refresh of the government's commemorations policy to:
  - ensure the policy is aligned with government priorities
  - extend the reach, inclusiveness and impact of commemorations
  - learn from the experience of commemorations over the past 10 years
  - reflect the changed policy environment for Māori-Crown relations
- 17 Engagement with iwi/Māori and with state sector agencies will be a vital part of the policy refresh. The Ministry has developed a plan for engaging with iwi/Māori on the proposed policy refresh and extended list of anniversaries, which it began implementing in July 2021. The Ministry will also engage with public service agencies who may have an interest in the policy refresh.
- 18 Following the conclusion of the Ministry's engagement process in late 2021, I will seek Cabinet approval to a proposal of the refreshed commemorations policy and list of 2023-2027 anniversaries.

#### **Financial Implications**

- 19 There are no financial implications in this proposal, as commemorative activities will be delivered within agencies' baseline budgets.

#### **Legislative Implications**

- 20 The proposals in this paper have no legislative implications.

#### **Regulatory Impact Statement**

- 21 A Regulatory Impact Statement is not required for this paper.

### Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

22 A Climate Implications of Policy Assessment is not required for this proposal.

### Population Implications

23 There are no population implications associated with this proposal.

### Human Rights

24 The proposals in this paper are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

### Consultation

25 The ISCC and Te Taura Whiri were consulted on this paper.

### Communications

26 MCH will publish a media release on the list of 2022 anniversaries in coordination with Te Taura Whiri, and work with all interested stakeholders on ways to promote commemorative activities.

### Proactive Release

27 I intend to release this paper proactively. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

### Recommendations

The Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **Note** that Cabinet approval is needed to designate a Tier 1 commemoration;
- 2 **Agree** that the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Māori language petition and Māori Language Day will be considered a Tier 1 commemoration in 2022;
- 3 **Note** that commemorative activities will be delivered through baseline budgets;
- 4 **Note** that I will seek Cabinet approval to a proposal of the refreshed commemorations policy and extended list of anniversaries from 2023 to 2027 after the Ministry for Culture and Heritage has undertaken engagement with iwi/Māori and state sector agencies.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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## Appendix A: List of proposed 2022 anniversaries

### Tier 1 anniversary

- 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Māori language petition and first Māori Language Day

### Tier 2 anniversaries

- 25th anniversaries of Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language and Dictionary of New Zealand English
- 50th anniversary of equal pay legislation
- 75th anniversary of Ballantyne's fire
- 50th anniversary of first national kapa haka competition (now known as Te Matatini)
- 75th anniversary of the formation of the National Symphony Orchestra (now New Zealand Symphony Orchestra)
- 100th anniversary of radio broadcasting
- S9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

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## Appendix B: List of 2014-2021 anniversaries

### 2021

#### Tier 2 anniversaries

- 175th anniversary of the Battle of Ruapekapeka, during the Northern War
- 125th anniversary of the Brunner mine disaster, New Zealand's deadliest industrial accident
- 75th anniversary of the arrival of Jayforce in Japan
- 50th anniversary of the establishment of the South Pacific Forum, now the Pacific Islands Forum
- 25th anniversary of the first MMP election

### 2020

#### Tier 1 anniversary

- 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

#### Tier 2 anniversaries

- 175th anniversary of the start of the Northern War
- 100th anniversary of New Zealand sending its first official team to the Olympics
- 100th anniversary of New Zealand attending the League of Nations and the 75th anniversary of signing the United Nations Charter
- 100th anniversary of the opening of the Alexander Turnbull Library
- 25th anniversary of New Zealand joining the World Trade Organisation

### 2019

#### Tier 1 anniversaries

- 250th anniversary of the first meetings of Māori and Europeans between James Cook and Tahitian chief and navigator Tupaia
- 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Versailles and peace celebrations

#### Tier 2 anniversaries

- 200th anniversary of the first planting of fruit trees and wine grapes
- 150th anniversary of the founding of New Zealand's first university - University of Otago
- 100th anniversary of New Zealand joining the International Labour Organisation
- 75th anniversary of the abolition of the poll tax on Chinese migrants

**2018**

Tier 1 anniversaries

- 125th anniversary of women's suffrage
- 100th anniversary of the battle at Le Quesnoy
- 100th anniversary of First World War armistice

Tier 2 anniversaries

- 175th anniversary of the Wairau incident
- 150th anniversary of the start of the fighting between Crown forces and the forces of Titokowaru and Te Kooti
- 150th anniversary of New Zealand becoming the first country to introduce nationwide standard time
- 100th anniversary of the influenza pandemic
- 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Wahine

**2017**

Tier 1 anniversaries

- 100th anniversary of the war in Belgium
- 100th anniversary of the war in Sinai/Palestine

Tier 2 anniversaries

- 150th anniversary of the Māori Representation Act establishing Māori seats in Parliament
- 150th anniversary of the creation of the Native School system
- 100th anniversary of the introduction and 50th anniversary of the end of 6 o'clock closing in bars
- 50th anniversary of the adoption of the decimal currency

**2016**

Tier 1 anniversary

- 100th anniversary of the War in France

Tier 2 anniversaries

- 200th anniversary of New Zealand's first school
- 150th anniversary of the Cook Strait undersea telegraph cable and the 140th anniversary of the trans-Tasman undersea telegraph cable
- 120th anniversary of the first public film screening, 100th anniversary of the introduction of film censorship and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the National Film Unit
- 75th anniversary of the founding of the Royal New Zealand Navy
- 50th anniversary of Vietnam War (Battle of Long Tan)

**2015**

Tier 1 anniversaries

- 175th anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi
- 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign

Tier 2 anniversaries

- 150th anniversary of Wellington becoming the capital of New Zealand
- 150th anniversary of the creation of the Native Land Court
- 75th anniversary of the start of regular trans-Tasman air services
- 70th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day
- 50th anniversary of the Cook Islands self-government

**2014**

Tier 1 anniversary

- 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and occupation of Samoa

Tier 2 anniversaries

- 200th anniversary of the first mission station
- 75th anniversary of the Battle of River Plate

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