

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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AIDE MEMOIRE: Speaking Notes: Cabinet's Consideration of Funding for the National Erebus Memorial

Date:	29 October 2018	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Sensitive	Reference:	AM2018/614
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Purpose

- 1 This aide memoire provides speaking points for your use at Cabinet's Economic Development Committee on Wednesday, when the matter of funding for the National Erebus Memorial will be considered.

Introductory Comments

- 2 The accident on Mt Erebus on 28 November 1979 is one of New Zealand's six major civic disasters of the last hundred years.
- 3 It is the one that is least settled in the public mind. Memories of the conflicting findings of the Chippendale and Mahon reports, and of accusations of wrongdoing by Air New Zealand and the government of the day, complicate its resolution for families and for the nation.
- 4 Early in my tenure as Prime Minister (on the 38th anniversary of the crash) I announced that this government would seek to address that lack of resolution through the creation of a National Erebus Memorial. This announcement has been well received by family members and the public.
- 5 The Memorial is scheduled to be completed by May 2020.

Progress to date

- 6 The Ministry for Culture and Heritage is leading this project, currently from within its existing baseline. It is experienced in creating national memorials, and has contracted The Building Intelligence Group (which worked on the Canterbury Earthquake Memorial) to assist.
- 7 The Ministry has worked closely with Erebus families and with members of Operation Overdue, who have been surveyed about their preferences for the Memorial. I am

meeting with family and Operation Overdue representatives in Auckland on the 39th anniversary of the crash.

- 8 Air New Zealand's supportive but low key approach to this project is exemplified by its willingness to fly family members to this meeting, some from as far away as Britain and North America. I am very grateful to the airline.
- 9 And I am delighted by the support shown by Auckland's Mayor Goff. He has been very willing to partner with central government. We are close to finalising a site [near the Parnell Rose Gardens] which remains confidential at this time.
- 10 Ministry staff are consulting on my behalf with other interested parties, including Ngāti Whātua.
- 11 Once the site is secured there will be only one remaining barrier to calling for expressions of interest: being able to announce the funding that government will make available to the Memorial, and therefore its quality and scale.
- 12 It is important that we agree the funding today, ahead of the Budget round, so that we can proceed with the call for expressions of interest as soon as possible. This needs to occur very soon to keep faith with the 'critical path' that will see the Memorial in place by May 2020.

Funding the Memorial

- 13 The Memorial does not need to be on anything like the scale of the \$10 million- plus Canterbury Earthquake Memorial. But it needs to have sufficient scale and gravitas to serve the needs of the Erebus families and all New Zealanders.
- 14 Family members have an expectation that the Memorial will not be unduly modest. In the survey that they completed there was an almost universal view that the Memorial must include the names of all those killed – which in itself implies something about its minimum dimensions.
- 15 I have looked at the relative cost of other memorials. [See appendix 1 below] In discussion with Ministry officials, I have come to the view that a total capital cost for the proposed National Erebus Memorial of \$3.100 million is appropriate, noting that \$0.900 of that funding can be sourced from reprioritised funding from Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.
- 16 The Cabinet Paper outlines the detail of the funding, and officials are available to talk to this.

Out of scope of the request

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Tamsin Evans
Deputy Chief Executive, Delivery

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Appendix 1: New Zealand Memorials Overseas and in New Zealand

New Zealand Memorials Overseas and in New Zealand



NZ Memorial in Korea (2006)
Granite tablets and bronze plaques installed in the UN Cemetery, Pusan, Korea
Estimated Cost: \$300,000*



Australian Memorial - Pukeahu Park
Fifteen red sandstone columns (2m x 4m approx.) and inset with inscribed granite panels. Extensive paving around the memorial and landscaping
Estimated Cost: \$5.0 million



US Memorial - Pukeahu Park
Inscribed granite tablet (2m x 4m approx.) and extensive landscaping and modification to the ground levels
Estimated Cost: \$1.4 million



NZ Memorial in London (2006)
Sixteen bronze standards set on a grid pattern and inscribed with text and images. Situated at Hyde Park Corner, central London
Estimated Cost: \$3.0 million



UK Memorial - Pukeahu Park
Stylised oak and pohutukava trees entwined with a bronze canopy inset with acrylic flowers and leaves. No other landscaping
Estimated Cost: \$1.2 million



Belgian Memorial - Pukeahu Park
Cast bronze sculpture with relief inscription on a concrete base inset with stones from Anzac Cove
Estimated cost: \$147,000



NZ Memorial in Canberra (2000)
Two 12 metre tall bronze representations of the handles of a flag set positioned each side of Anzac Parade in Canberra. Opened in 2001
Estimated Cost: \$4.6 million



French Memorial - Pukeahu Park
Composite stone tablets inset with inscriptions. Motion-activated soundscape built into the memorial. Extensive landscaping
Estimated Cost: \$0.5 million



Canterbury National Earthquake Memorial
Marble wall inscribed with 185 names of those killed in the 2011 earthquake. Stepped paving leading down to the Avon River. Landscaped commemorative spaces on the opposite bank
Estimated Cost: \$10 million

* All dollar figures relate to the cost in the year of construction; some figures will require significant updating to represent 2018 costs