

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

**NATIONAL EREBUS MEMORIAL: POST-FAMILIES MEETING
 UPDATE**

Date:	6 December 2018	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Sensitive	Reference:	BR2018/694

Minister	Action Sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Arts, Culture and Heritage	<p>Agree that the Ministry ensure the National Erebus Memorial design teams understand the families' views through the provision of written material to the six finalists;</p> <p>Agree to a proposed approach to family participation on the Design Selection Panel;</p> <p>Agree to text in your name being included in an email communication being sent out to families and others on our database next week;</p> <p>Agree to sign letters of thanks to those who have assisted with this project in recent times, and particularly in relation to last week's meeting; we will prepare these letters for you next week.</p>	10 December 2018

Contacts			
Name	Position	Contact	1st Contact
Sarah Ingram	Manager, Commemorations	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 Withdrawn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 follows your meeting with the families of Erebus victims and members of the ice phase of Operation Overdue on Wednesday 28 November.
- 2 It seeks:
 - a. your guidance on matters arising from the meeting;
 - b. your approval of a paragraph of text to be sent in your name to family members; and
 - c. your agreement to send letters of thanks to those who have provided support and assistance to the project.

Key Messages

- 3 In the Ministry's view the meeting last week was very successful, and confirmed government's inclusive approach to the National Erebus Memorial project.
- 4 In accordance with this approach, the Ministry will communicate with attendees and other family and ice phase members next week, committing to action as a result of the meeting, and signalling upcoming milestones.
- 5 We require your decisions on key matters raised at the meeting, and your agreement to thank some of those who contributed to its success, and to the project as a whole.

Recommendations

- 6 The Ministry for Culture and Heritage recommends that you:
 - 1 **Agree** that family members' views be provided to the potential designers of the Memorial in written form, rather than through meetings or phone calls, in order to preserve the anonymity of the process; YES / NO
 - 2 **Agree** that the Ministry undertake an election process for family participation in the Design Selection Panel; YES / NO
 - 3 **Agree** that the role of the family participants on the Design Selection Panel be primarily to support the Panel's understanding of the feedback of the families on the six designs, as they have been provided during the feedback process; and to ensure that the professional expertise of the other Panel members is informed by an understanding of the ongoing effect of the accident on the lives of the bereaved; YES / NO

- 4 **Agree** to text from you, as outlined in paragraph 16 below, being included in the Ministry's communication next week with families and Operation Overdue members; **YES / NO**
- 5 **Agree** to sign letters of thanks to those who have supported and assisted the project. **YES / NO**

9(2)(a)



Sarah Ingram
Commemorations Manager

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

_____ / _____ / 2018

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Background

- 7 Your office and this Ministry have both received expressions of gratitude and appreciation from attendees of last week's meeting. Several have told us that they have a real sense that their concerns are understood by government. We will continue to communicate regularly with the families about progress with the Memorial.
- 8 The meeting generated a number of tasks for the Ministry, which we are working on at the moment. These include:
 - a. ensuring that a detailed timeline for the Memorial's development is available on the Erebus website;
 - b. providing information about the flightpath of TE901 and the hometowns of those who were aboard it; and
 - c. developing a response to suggestions about the timing of the unveiling and the possibility of a plaque in Christchurch.

Matters requiring your immediate consideration

- 9 In the meantime, we need to address urgently two of the commitments made at the meeting: that family members' perspectives would be available to the designers through meetings or phone calls between them; and that two family members participate in the Design Selection Panel's consideration of the proposed design concepts, before it makes a recommendation to you. That consideration will occur in March. (Note that the Panel has a preliminary meeting on Friday 7 December to select the six teams which will be funded to develop concept designs. That meeting is focussed wholly on the professional assessment of technical expertise, *not designs*, and it has not therefore seemed desirable nor necessary to delay it.)

Ensuring the six potential design teams have access to the views of the families

- 10 We have discussed how best to give effect to these commitments. One factor that was not immediately apparent to us last week was that the standard anonymity of a design process at this level would limit the means by which families can engage with designers. Once the 33 Expressions of Interest have been whittled to six teams invited to submit designs, we will allocate numbers to the six teams and strip all identifying features from our communications. This is to preserve objectivity within a relatively small design sector, where judges and submitters are likely to know each other, and is considered best practice across the industry.
- 11 It would be possible to loosen the anonymity requirements in order to arrange for family members to brief design teams in person, but we would advise against it, especially when a credible alternative exists to ensure that the teams understand the feelings of the families. We have considerable material gathered from families from our communications with them over the last year – for instance, in the free

text section of the survey many people took the opportunity to tell us about their own experiences. We could provide this to all six teams, along with any further material families wish to provide to us. Our view is that such written material is eloquent and compelling.

- 12 If you are in agreement with this, we will explain the situation to the families, and ask that they provide us as soon as possible with any further material that will convey their strongly held feelings.

Family members' participation in the Design Selection Panel

- 13 It was agreed at the meeting that two family members would sit on the Design Selection Panel, and that at least one of these would be a child of someone killed in the accident. Our intention is that in next week's email we will ask people interested in fulfilling those roles to nominate themselves, and to provide a brief outline of what they would bring to such a role. We will then arrange for an online vote by all family members.
- 14 We had already committed, as part of our process, to all family members having the opportunity to provide comment on the designs before they are considered by the Panel. We think we should reinforce this inclusive approach by charging the family participants with the role of helping the Panel understand the views of the families as they have been expressed in feedback.
- 15 With your agreement, our email communication will include the following text:

We are very pleased that the Design Selection Panel is to be augmented by two family members, at least one of whom will be a child of an Erebus victim. The role of the family participants will primarily be to support the Panel's understanding of the feedback of the families on the six designs, as they have been provided during the feedback process; and to ensure that the professional expertise of the other Panel members is informed by an understanding of the ongoing effect of the accident on the lives of the bereaved.

A message from you

- 16 We think that family members would be pleased to receive a message directly from you as part of the email, and suggest that it reads:

I was so pleased to meet with many of you in Auckland on the 39th anniversary of the Erebus accident. The gathering was extremely moving, and I thank all those who came and who shared their grief and their stories. I am very committed to working with you over the next 18 months to create a National Erebus Memorial that honours the memory of those who were lost, and eases the sadness of those left behind. May I wish you all comfort in this festive season.

Other developments in relation to the Memorial

17 In the meantime, we are continuing other work in relation to the Memorial, including liaison with key stakeholders such as Air New Zealand. The airline has confirmed to us that it is willing to fly family representatives to the sod-turning/Mauri Stones ceremony on the 40th anniversary, on the same basis that it brought people to the Auckland meeting, and is willing for that to be signalled in our upcoming communication to families. It has also indicated that it will support travel to the dedication of the Memorial in 2020. We continue to appreciate the generosity and support of Air New Zealand – and many attendees on the 28th were clearly grateful also.

18 Out of scope of the request



Thanking those who have helped

19 Many organisations have been helpful in the development of the National Erebus Memorial in recent months and in relation to the meeting of the 28th. You may wish to formally acknowledge that assistance, and with your agreement we will draft letters to Mayor Goff, Ngāti Whātua, the Waitematā Local Board, and Air New Zealand.

Next steps

20 The Design Selection Panel meets tomorrow to select six teams; from this point they will be anonymous so although we will issue a media release we will not be able to name the teams.

21 We will of course inform the families that six teams have been selected, and advise them of how things will be progressed as outlined above, subject to your agreement.

22 We will brief you again in the New Year.