

MUSEUM OF NEW  
ZEALAND  
TE PAPA  
TONGAREWA

Cable St  
PO Box 467  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Telephone  
64-4-381 7249  
[www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)



28 January 2022

Tēnā koe,

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – Information about Signs of a Nation exhibition

I am writing in response to the email dated 8 December 2021, sent to Te Papa, in which you requested the following information:

- a. A copy of the advice / recommendations of the exhibition's Māori Advisory Committee;
- b. Correspondence between the Māori Advisory Committee and Te Papa regarding any concerns the Committee or its members had about the exhibition (pre or post the exhibition's installation) – and Te Papa's response;
- c. Post the exhibition's opening/ launch:
  - i. How many complaints has Te Papa received regarding the erroneous portrayal of Te Tiriti and its Treaty English version counterpart as having equal status?
  - ii. How many requests has Te Papa received to correct this error (and what were the nature of requested corrective action)?
  - iii. What has been Te Papa's response to these complaints and requests?
  - iv. How much did the exhibition cost to create and install?

Please find attached Te Papa's records with regards to this enquiry. *Signs of a Nation* was a 'day one' exhibition developed prior to opening in the 1990s, but has had some changes since then including in relation to the 'Peppers Ghost' element. Content that has been blocked out is not within the scope of your request, with the exception of noted redactions, which are made on privacy grounds in accordance with s9(2)(a) of the Act.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us please contact Frances Lawrence at [OIA@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@tepapa.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Frances Lawrence  
Principal Advisor Strategy, Planning and Performance

**THE MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA, MAORI  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, TO BE HELD IN THE  
BOARDROOM, BUCKLE STREET, WELLINGTON, 9.00AM TO  
4.30PM, 19 AND 20 APRIL 1994**

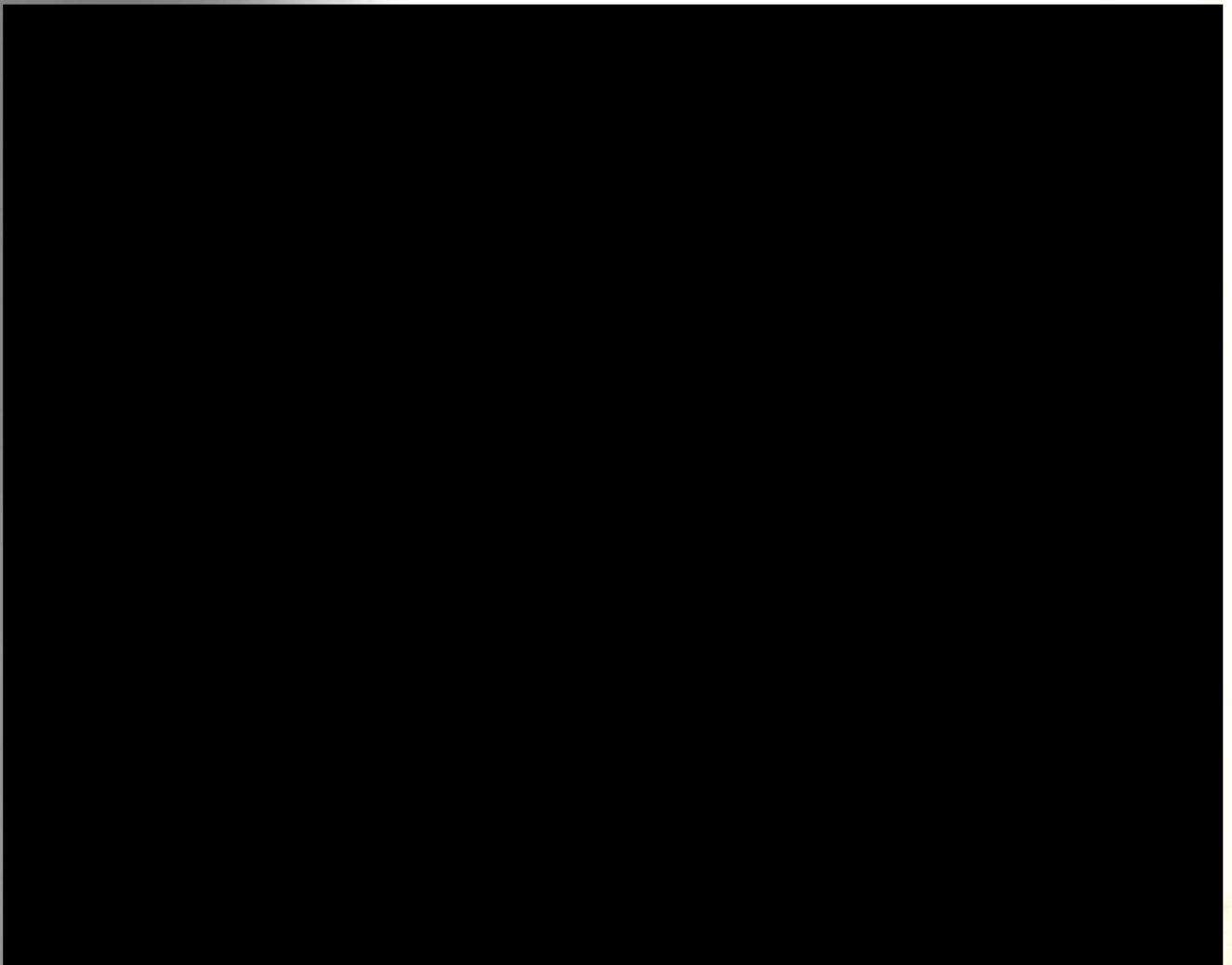
**MEMBERS:**

Apirana Mahuika (Chairman)  
Georgina Te Heuheu  
Te Aue Davis  
Wana Davis  
Graham Rankin  
Tawhao Tioke  
Ru Wharehoka  
Sandy Adsett  
Wharehuia Milroy  
Anne Salmond  
Sir Hamish Hay

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

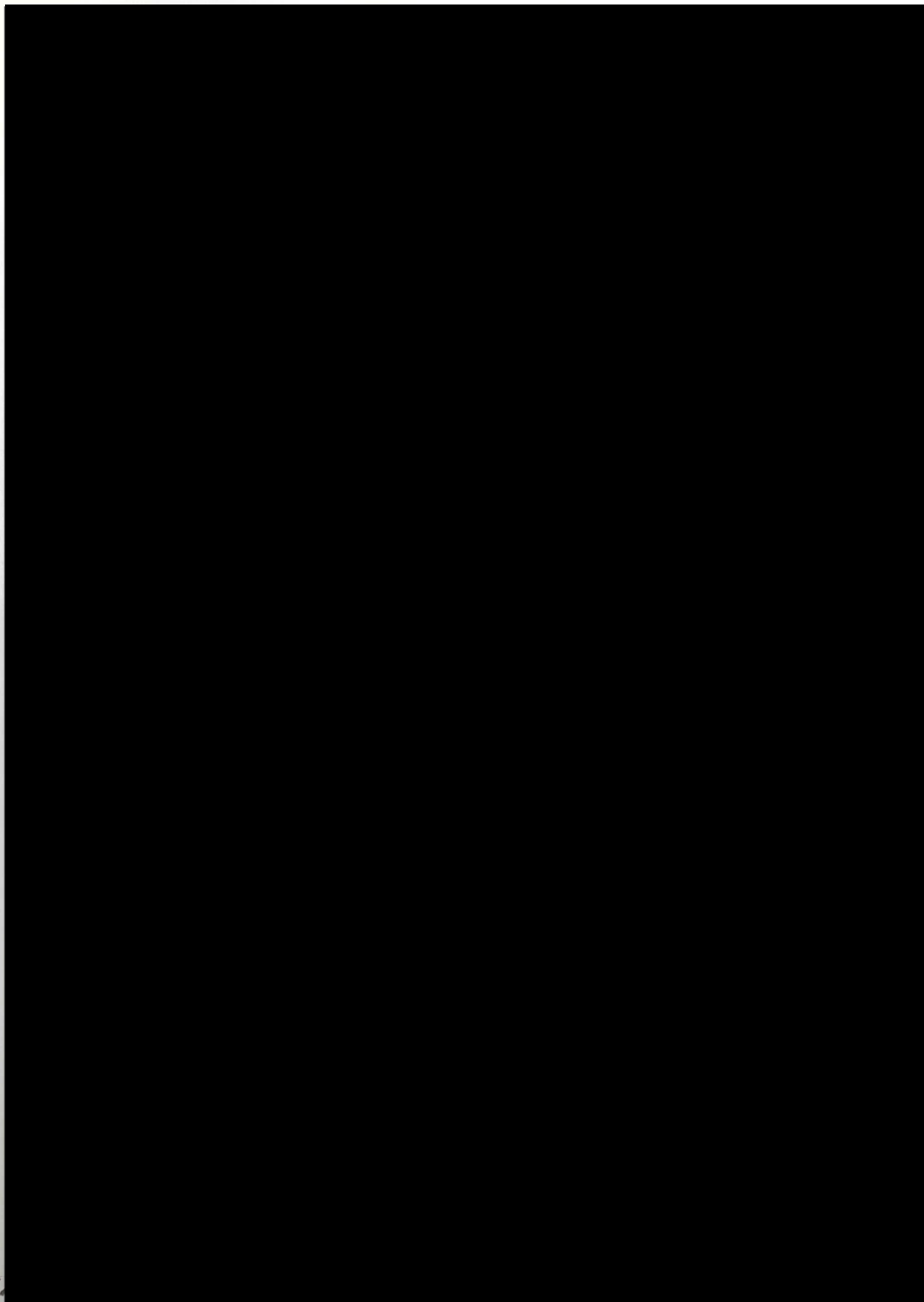
Cliff Whiting (Director Maori & Bicultural Development)  
Cheryll Sotheran (Chief Executive)  
Maraea Turkington (Secretary)

**AGENDA:**

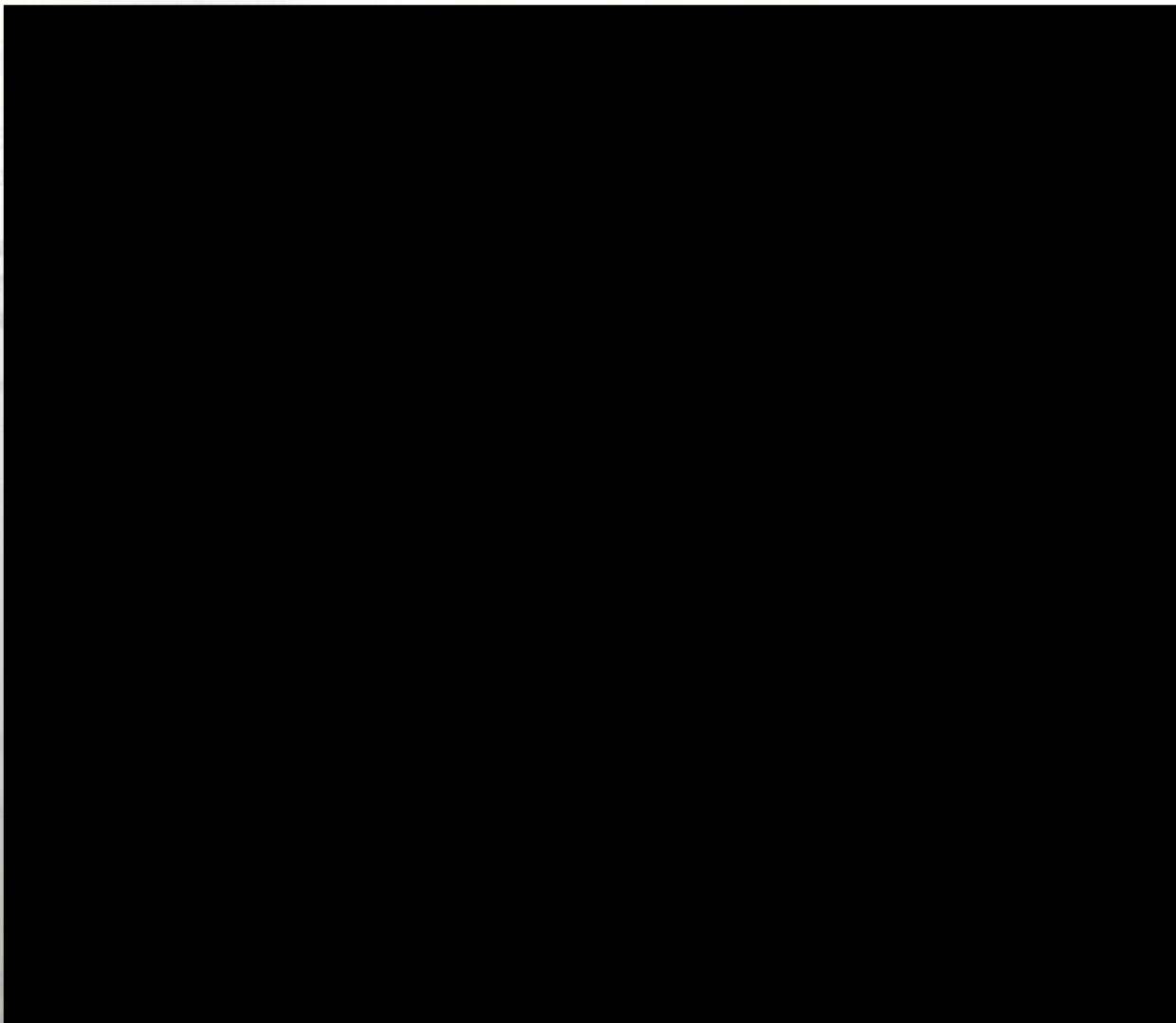


RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**PAPER TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON REVIEW OF SCIENCE  
AND RESEARCH**



- The Treaty of Waitangi will be a major exhibition area and will be treated in an integrated way with directness and sensitivity.



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Natural Environment

Ethnology (Maori  
and Pacific

Archaeology



*Mon 7 am.*

*For Agenda Auckland Mtg*

OPC : 14

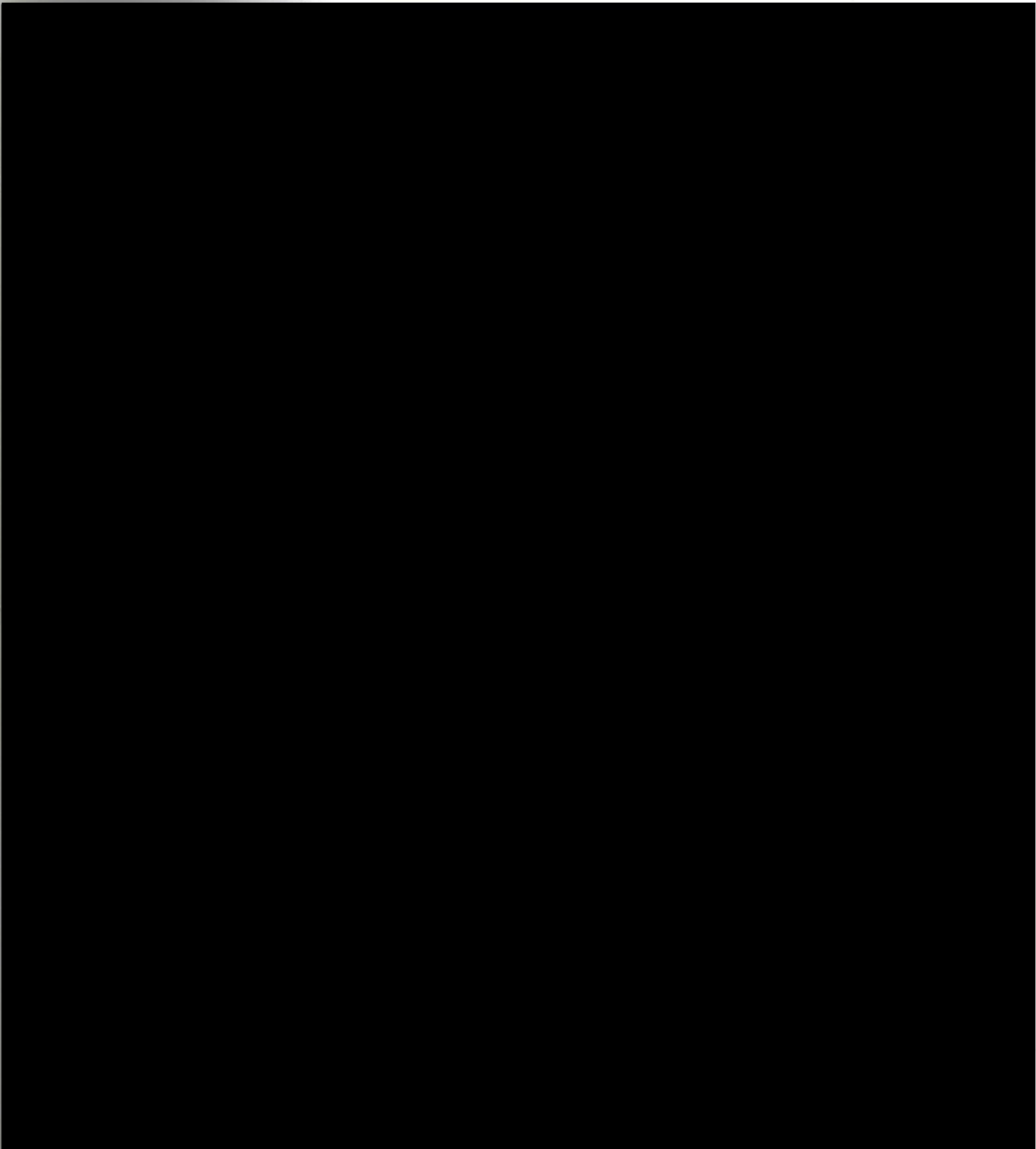
Item No : 3a)i

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE PAPER

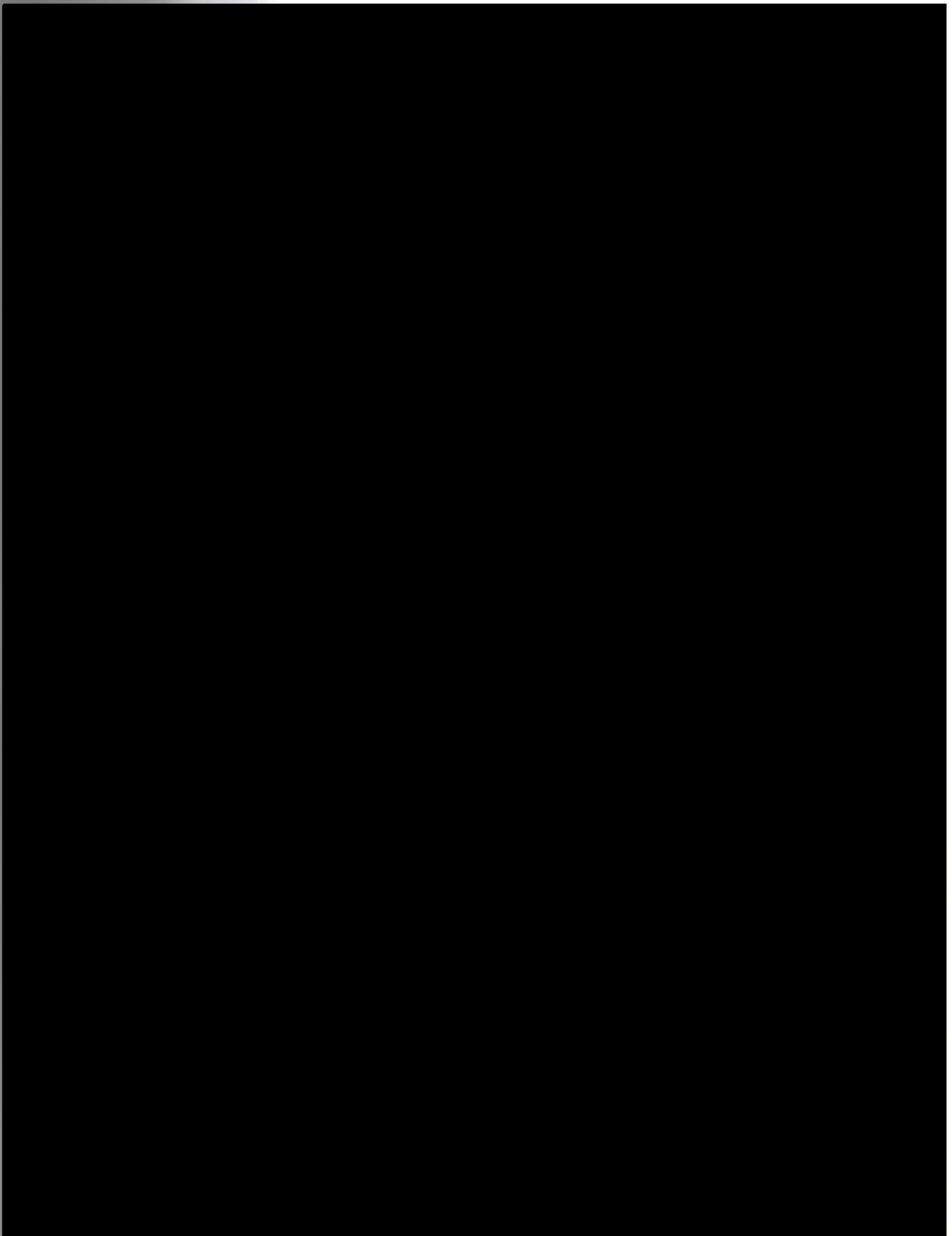
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DAY ONE EXHIBITIONS TASK

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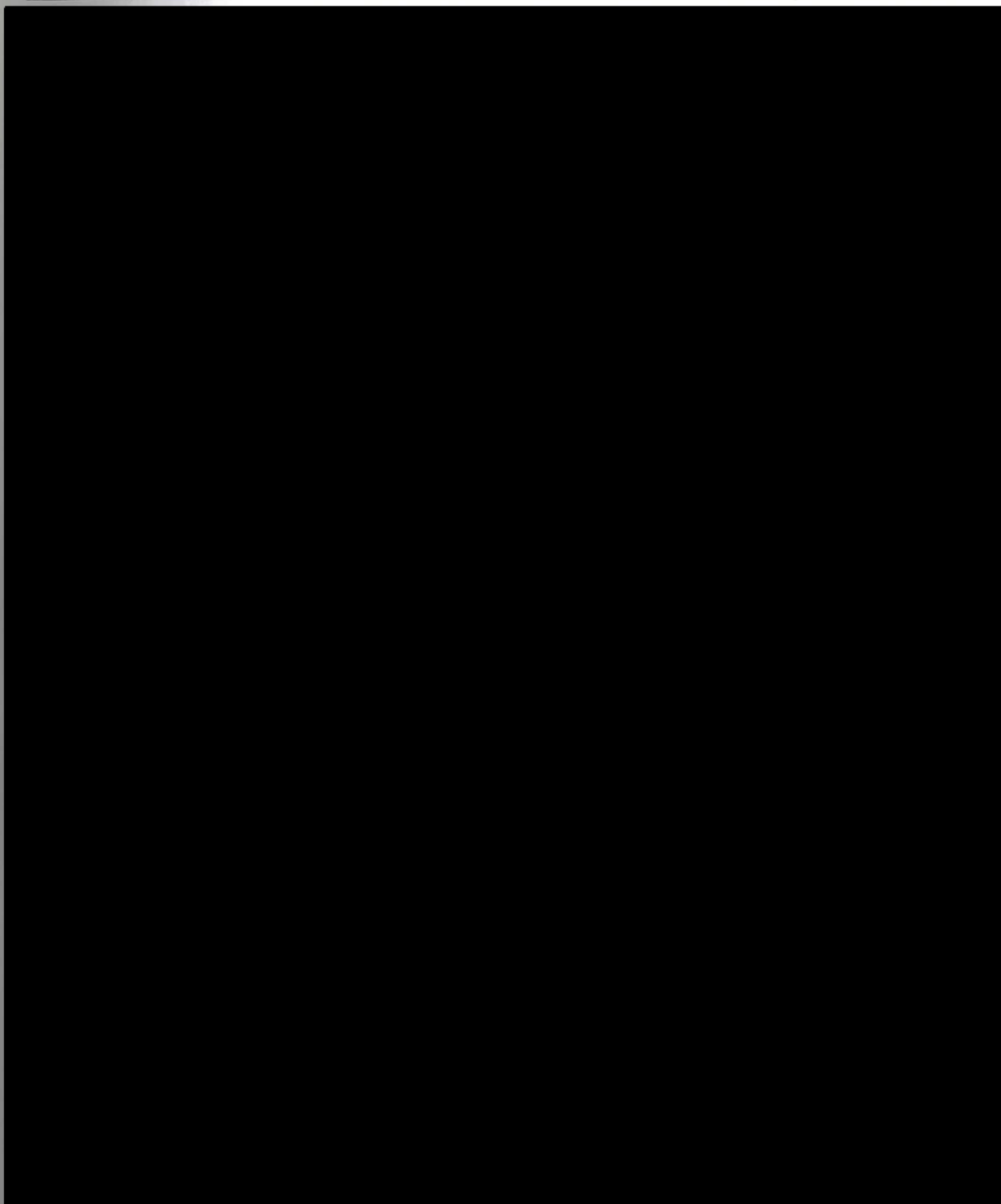
**APPENDIX I**



**Memo**

To: Cheryll Sotheran, Chief Executive Officer  
From: Conceptual Leadership Team  
Date: April 29, 1994

***Comment on Peer Review Committee Report on the Day One Exhibition  
Conceptual Plan***



**Section 1 Introduction**

pp 12-13 and Recommendations 1-2 (p4)

Page 12 ¶ 7

We have all made a personal commitment to assisting the Museum achieve its goals in biculturalism and have striven to ensure a bicultural perspective in the exhibition concepts. However, our ability to achieve this has been impaired by the small size of the Maori staff team which is available for the huge range of tasks they face, of which exhibitions development is only one. All too often exhibition concepts have been developed in discussions which have not been able to involve Maori staff, through pressures of their other work. This is true even for such essentially bicultural exhibitions as the *Treaty* and *Encounters*.

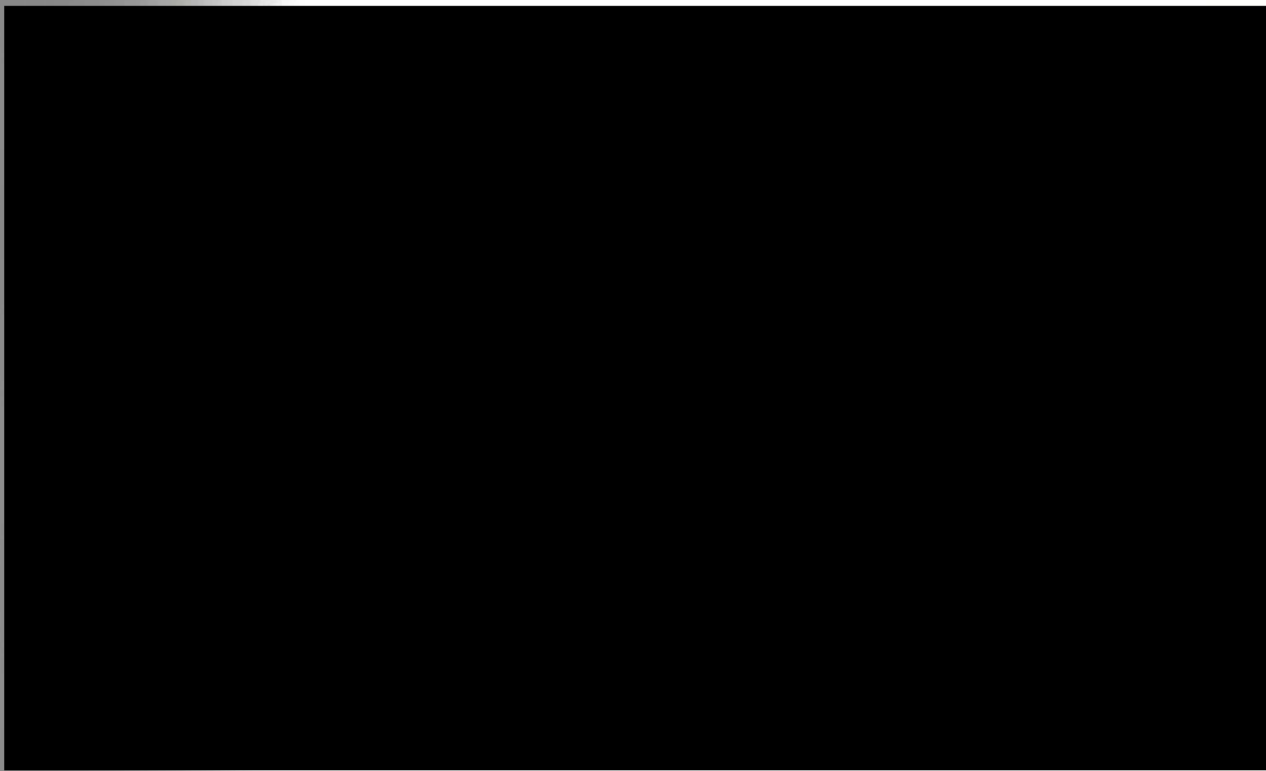
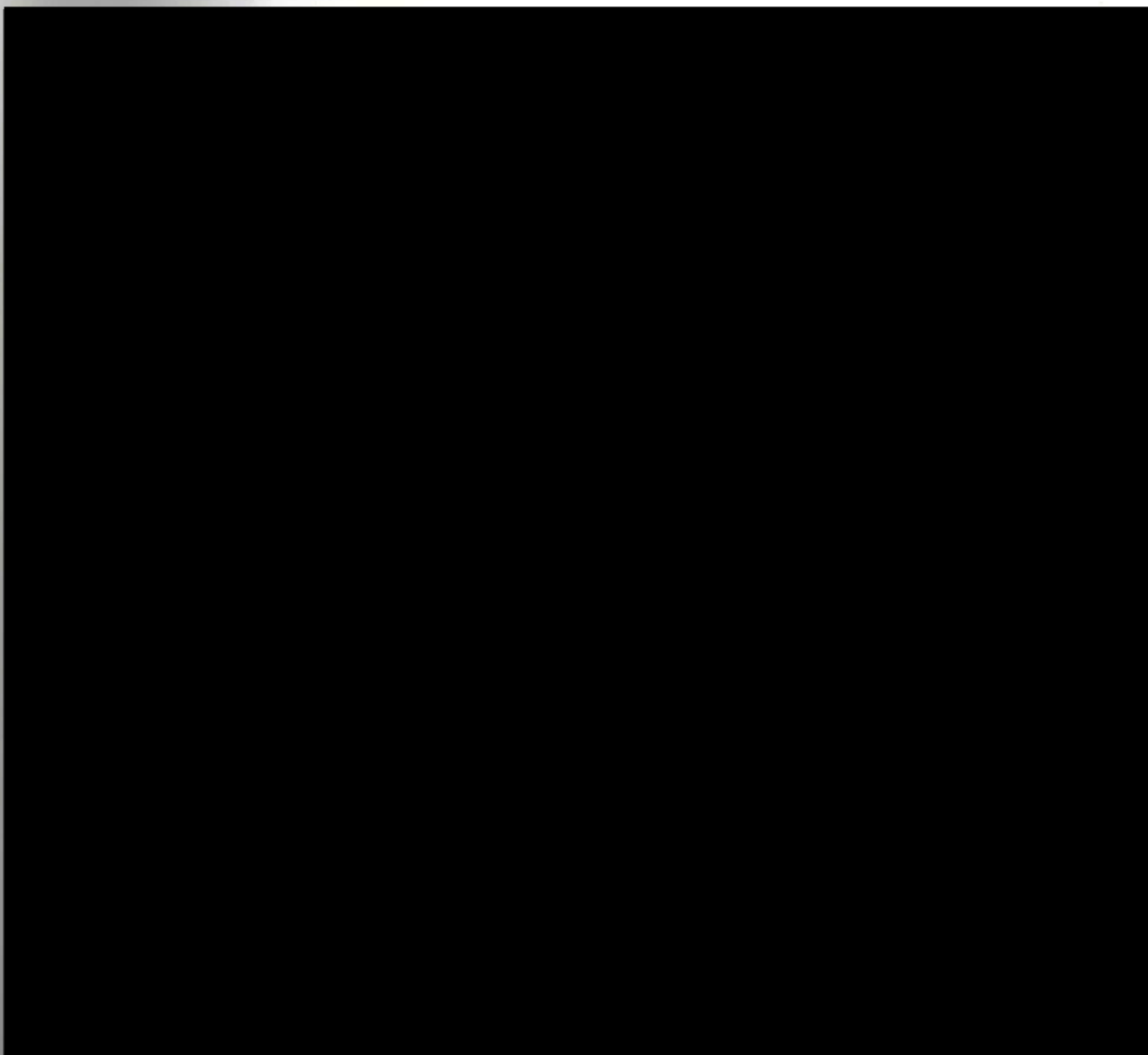
It is imperative that the Maori staff resource be increased as a matter of urgency to allow a truly bicultural approach to exhibition development as well as giving attention to other Museum requirements. Not to do so will jeopardise progress on exhibitions and prevent the Museum from achieving one of its fundamental goals.

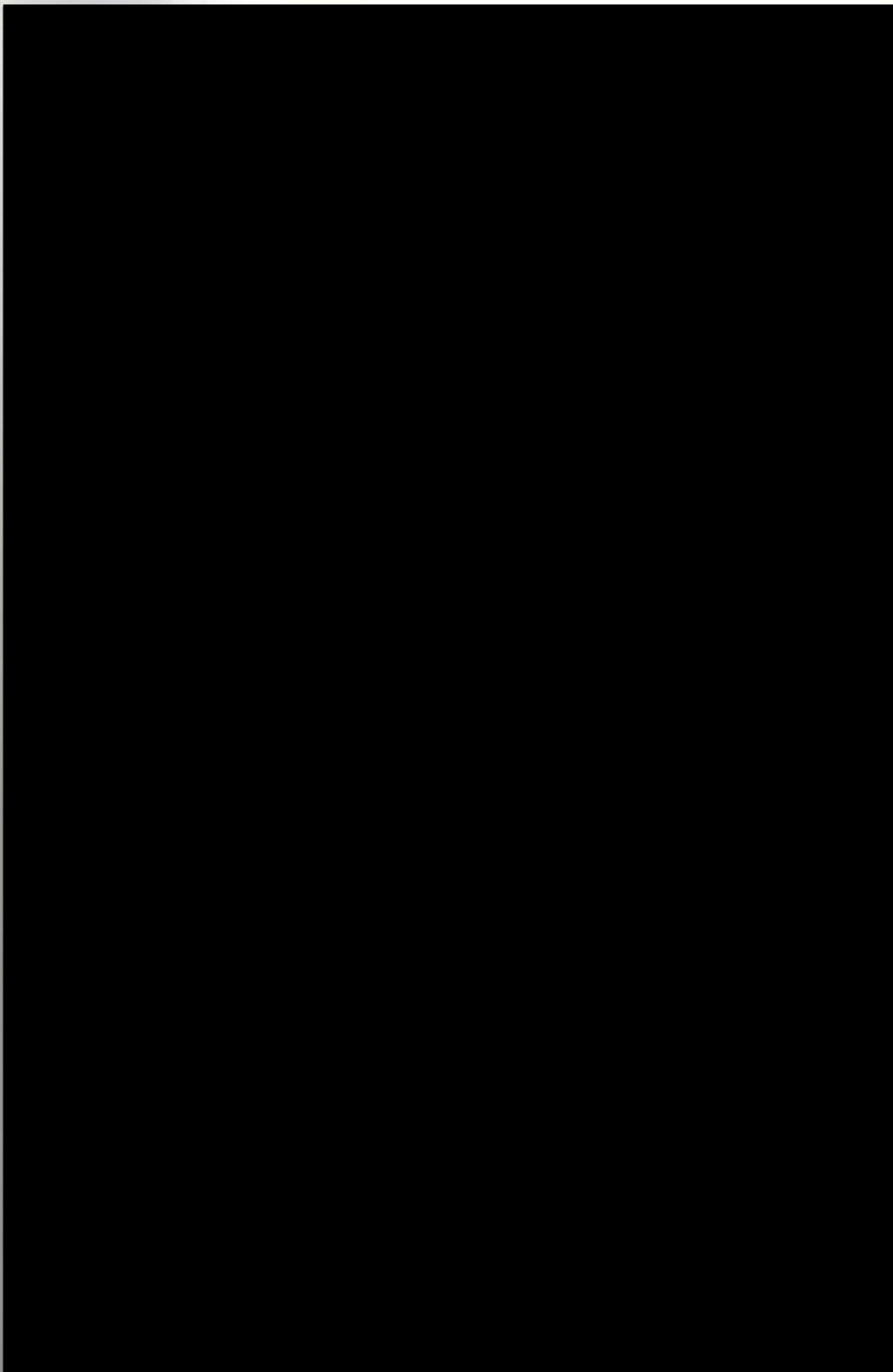
We will also be greatly assisted by the Bicultural Policy for the Museum which is currently under development.

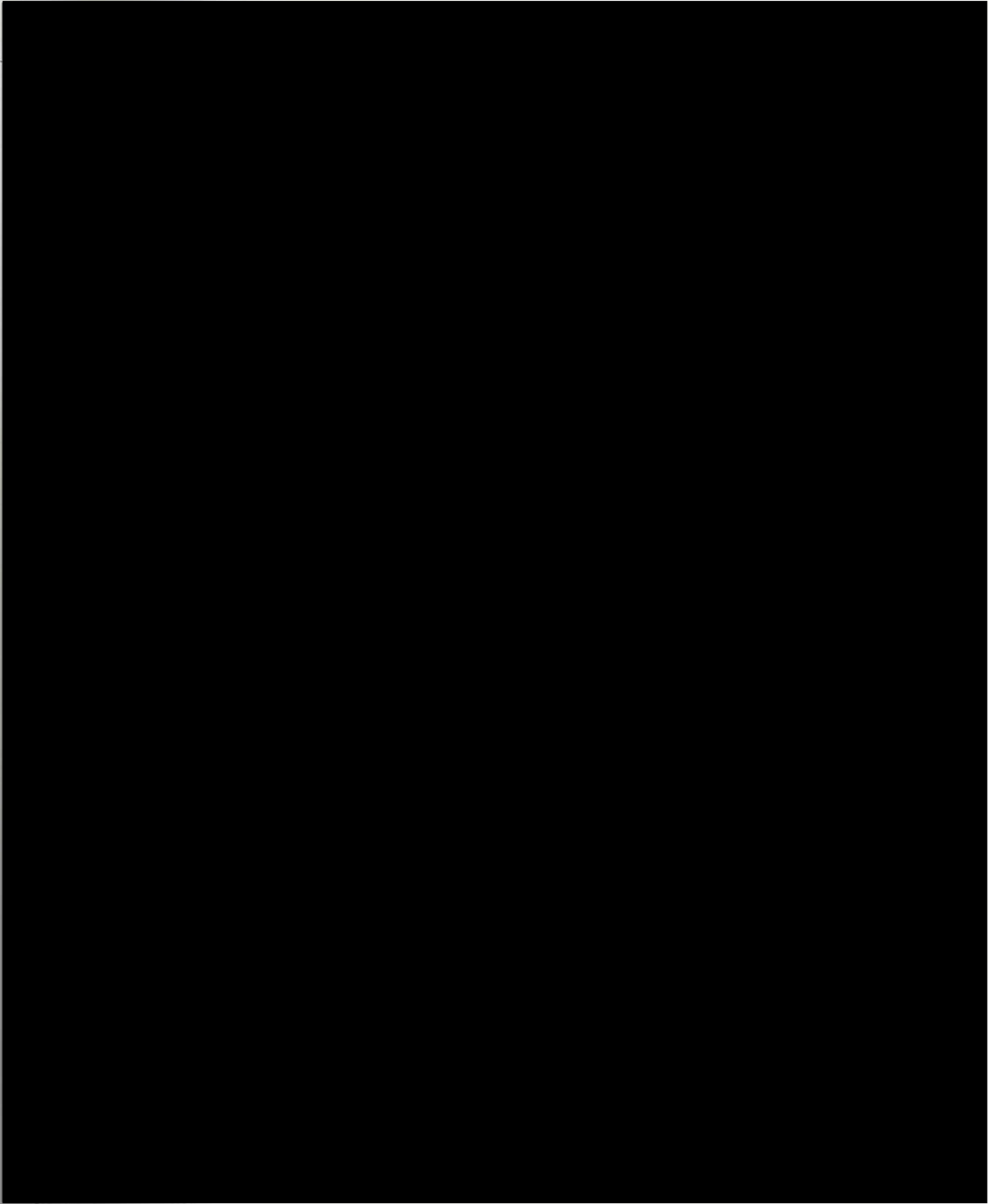
Page 13

¶ 3 and Recommendation 1 (p 4)

We certainly agree that the Museum's exhibitions need to indicate the complexity of the issues they treat, including difficult and contentious aspects. It was not the intention of the exhibition concepts to suggest that Aotearoa New Zealand was/is a truly harmonious society, though in the editing of the Draft Exhibition Conceptual Plan some of the more complex aspects of conflict and contest were removed. This will be attended to in the revised version.







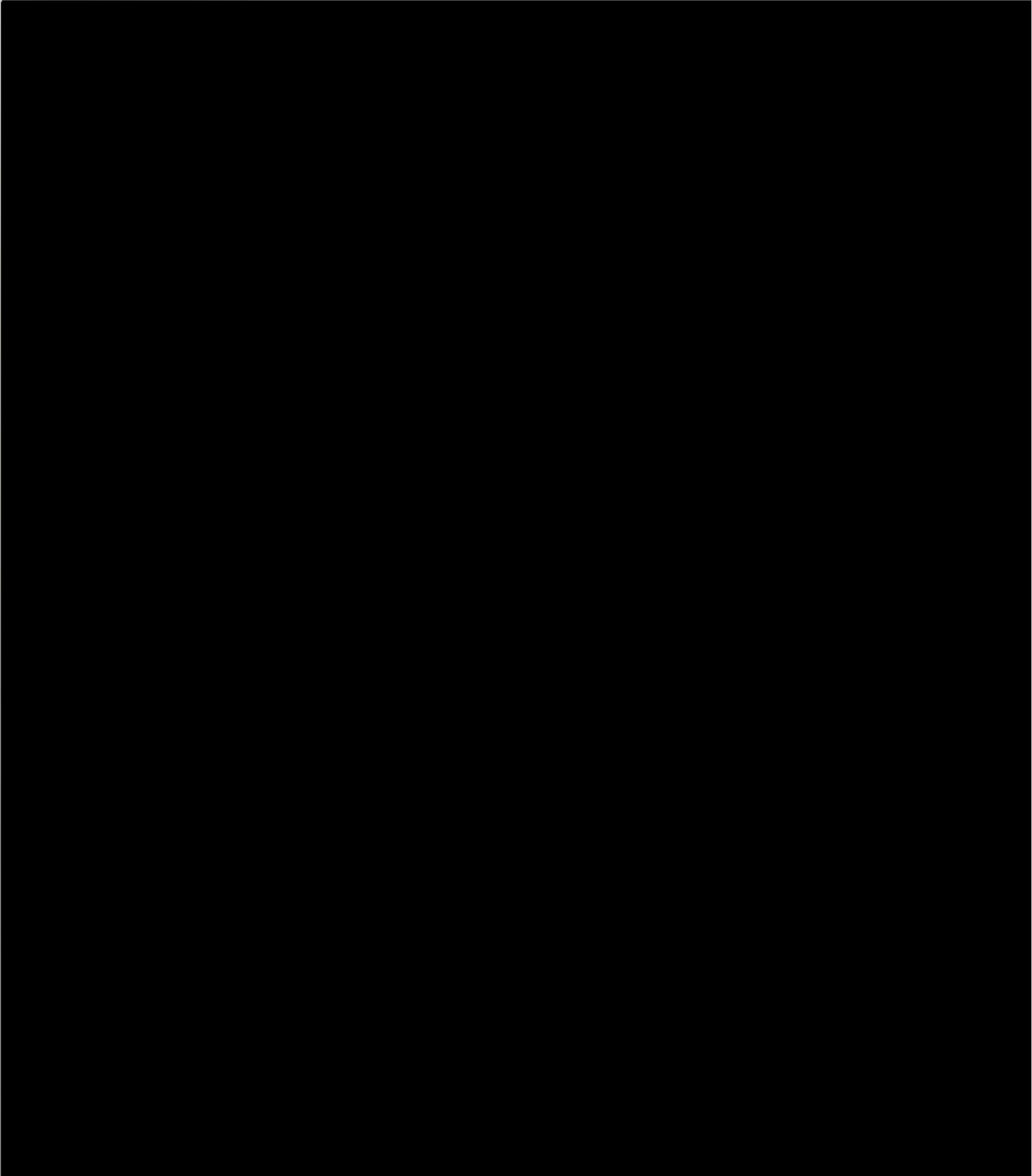
Exhibitions

Section 8 Treaty of Waitangi p19 and Recommendation 14 (p 6)

The concept descriptions for the *Treaty of Waitangi* and *Encounters* are relatively underdeveloped, in part through the limited resources of the Maori team to provide input into them. The Conceptual Leadership Team has a work programme underway to address these issues, the results of which will be included in the revised Exhibition

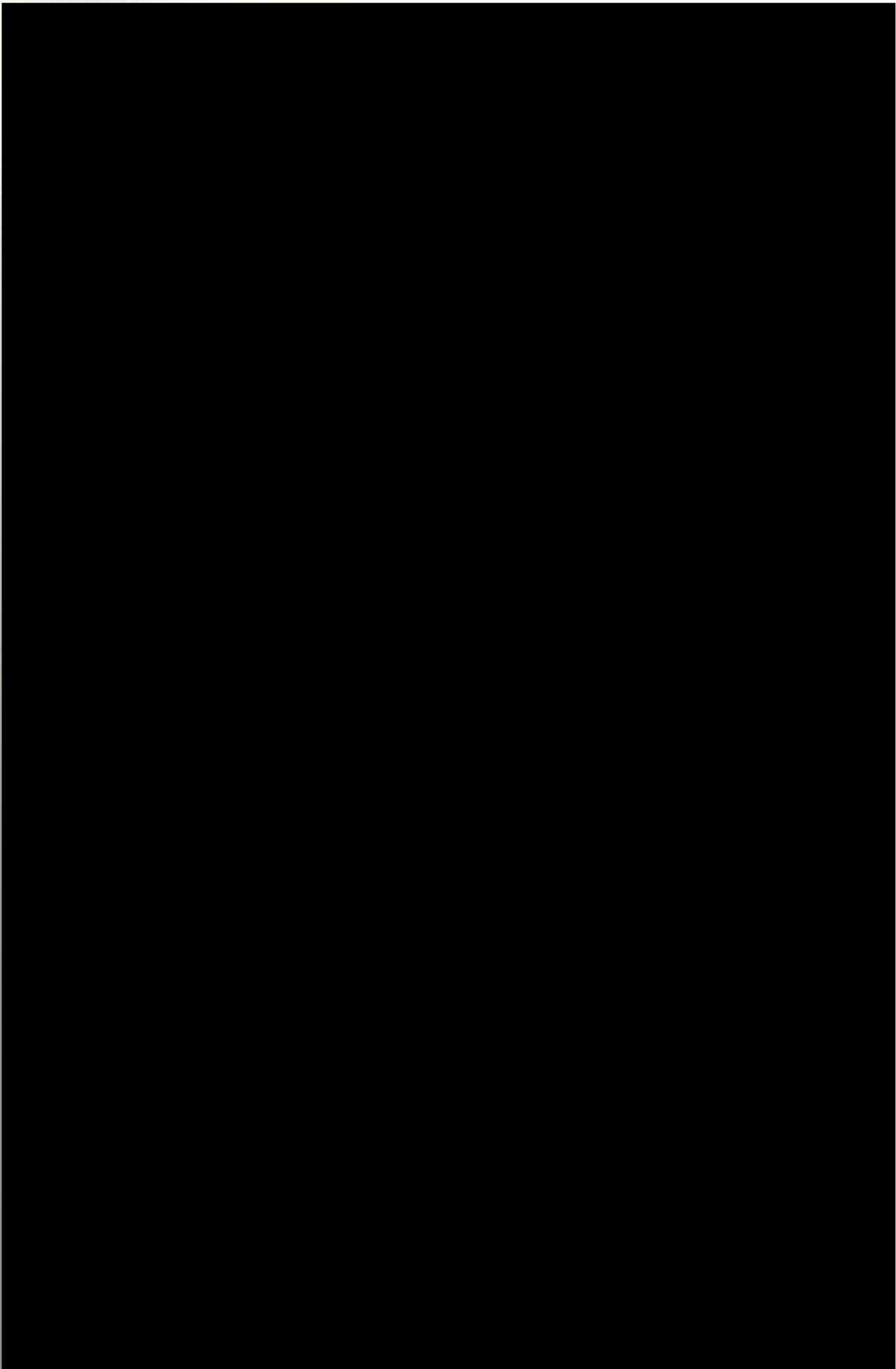


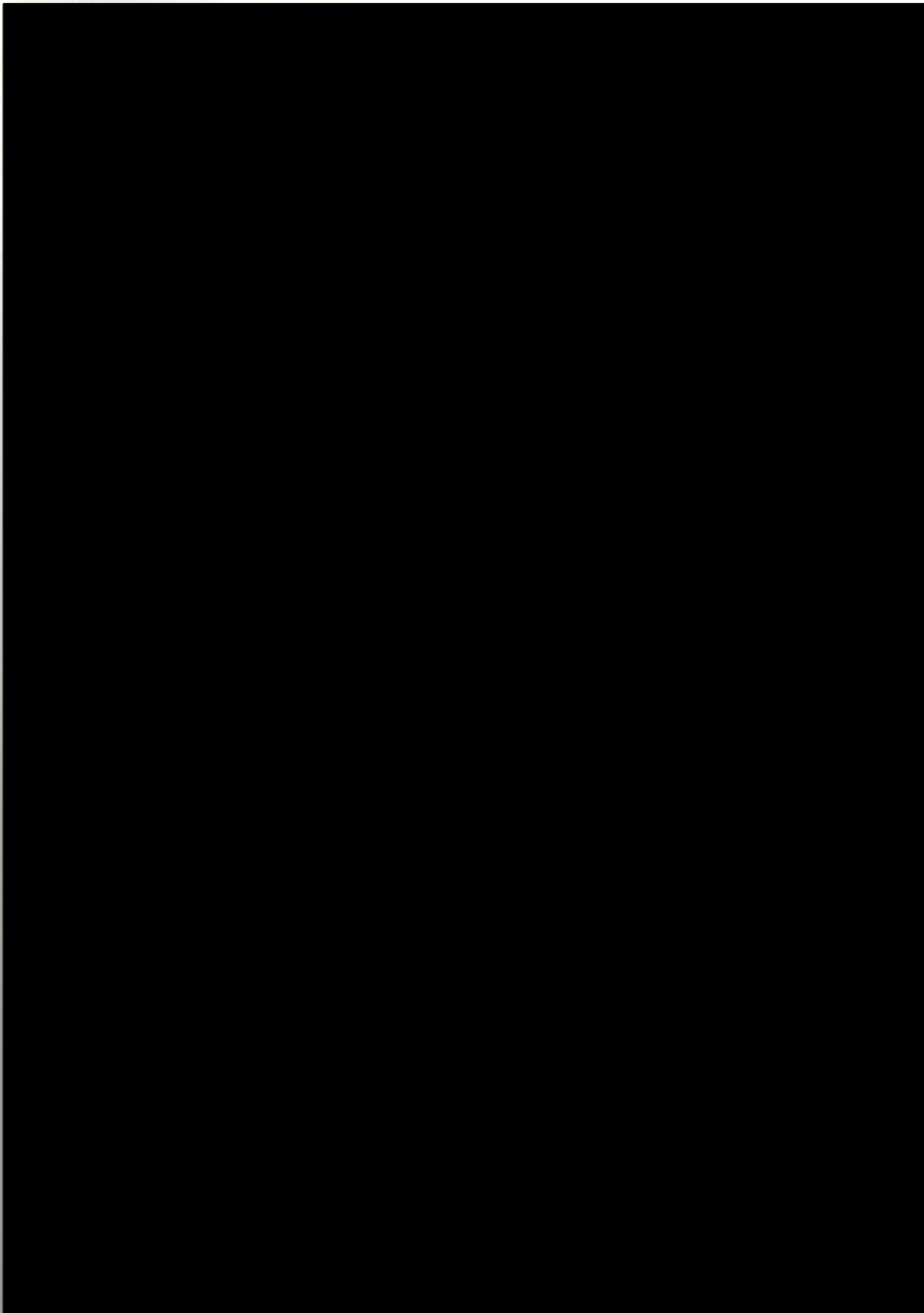
Conceptual Plan. We are currently uncertain about the appropriateness in 1998 and beyond of devoting the whole of the 'Wedge' area to the Treaty itself, while believing that the interactions between the two Treaty partners are appropriate for that space. We do not believe that it is appropriate to endeavour to remove the original Treaty document from its National Archives display for incorporation here, even if that were possible. We will however take the Peer Review Committee's recommendation into consideration in our revision of the concepts.

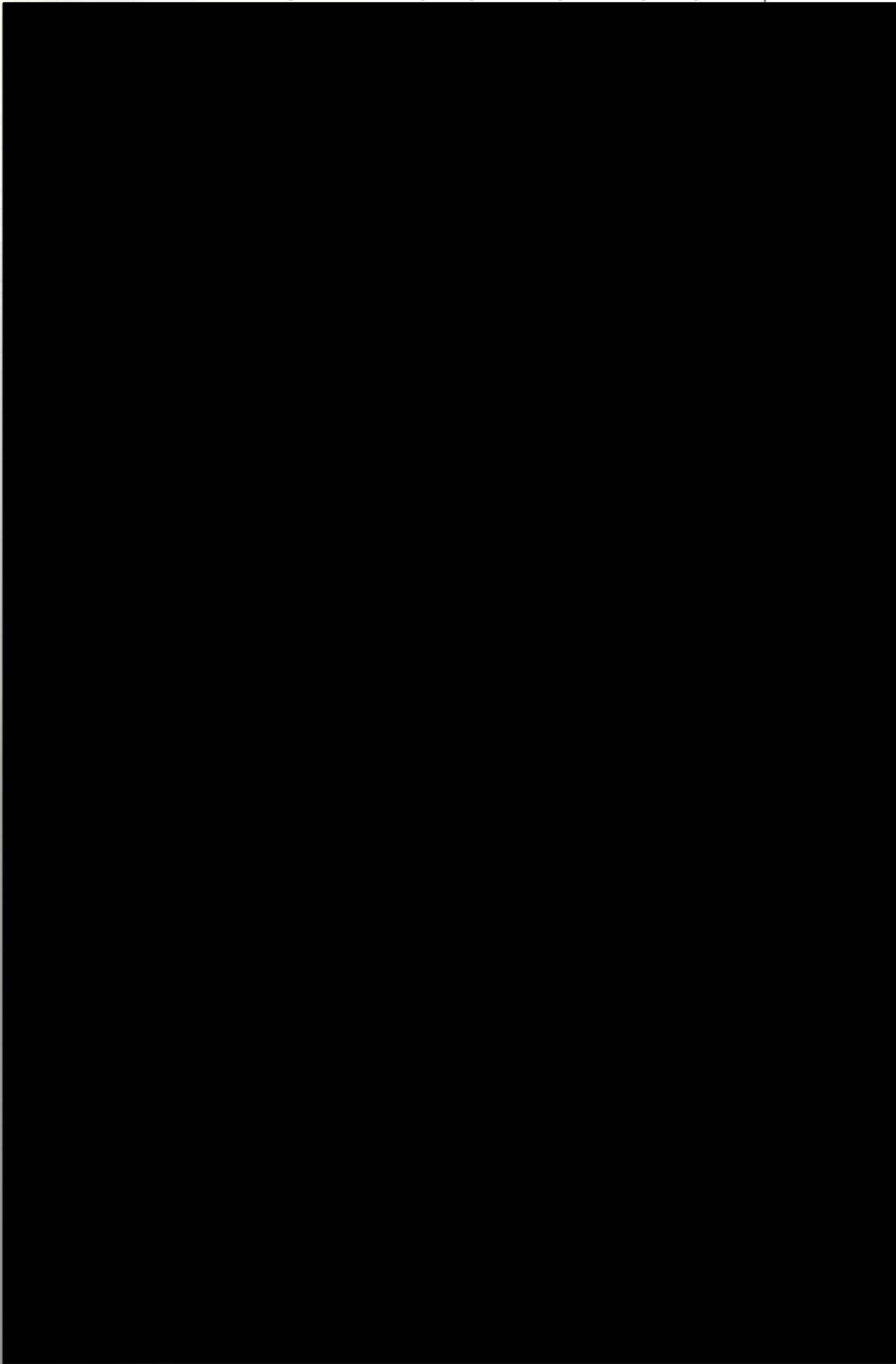


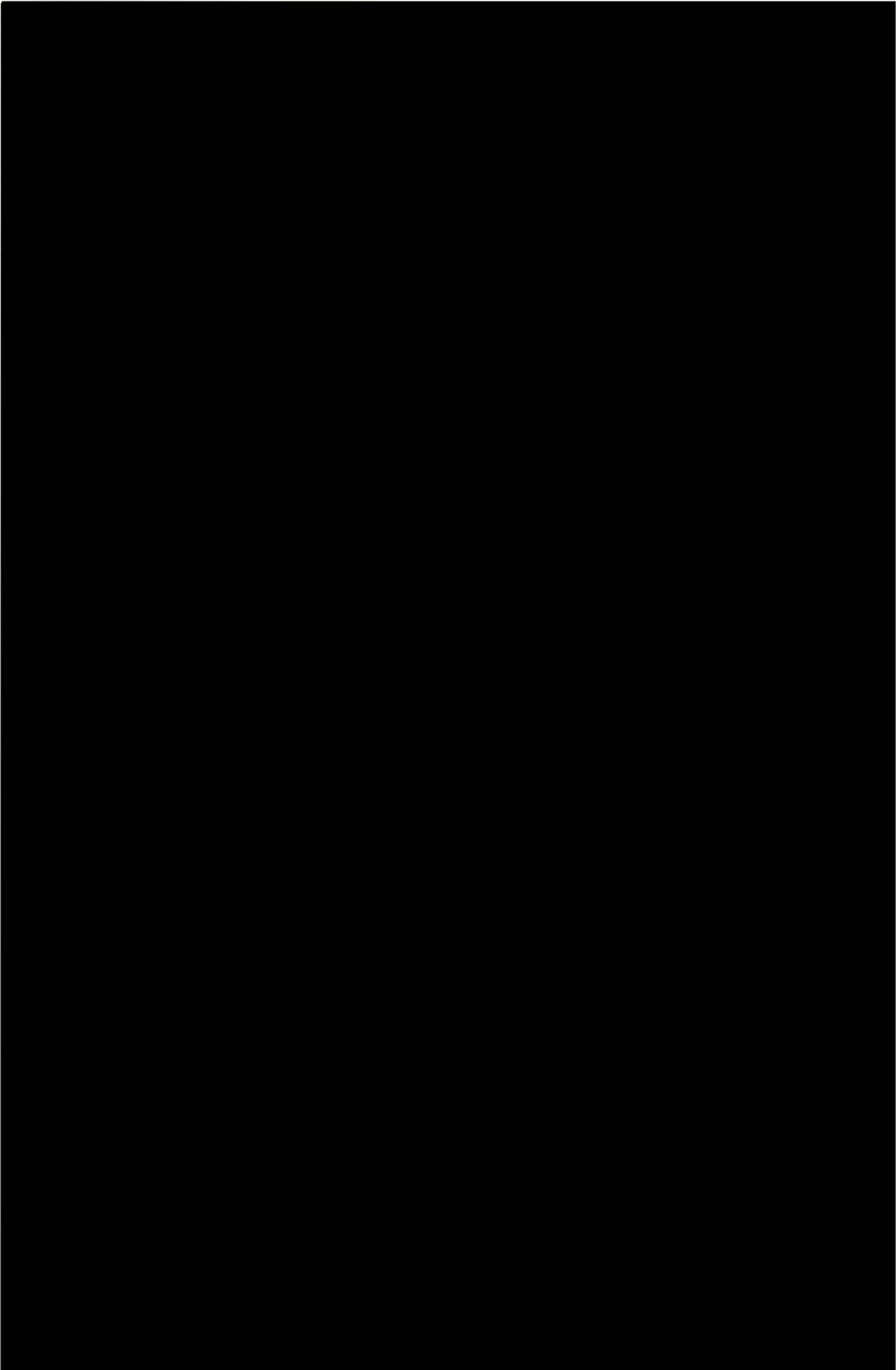
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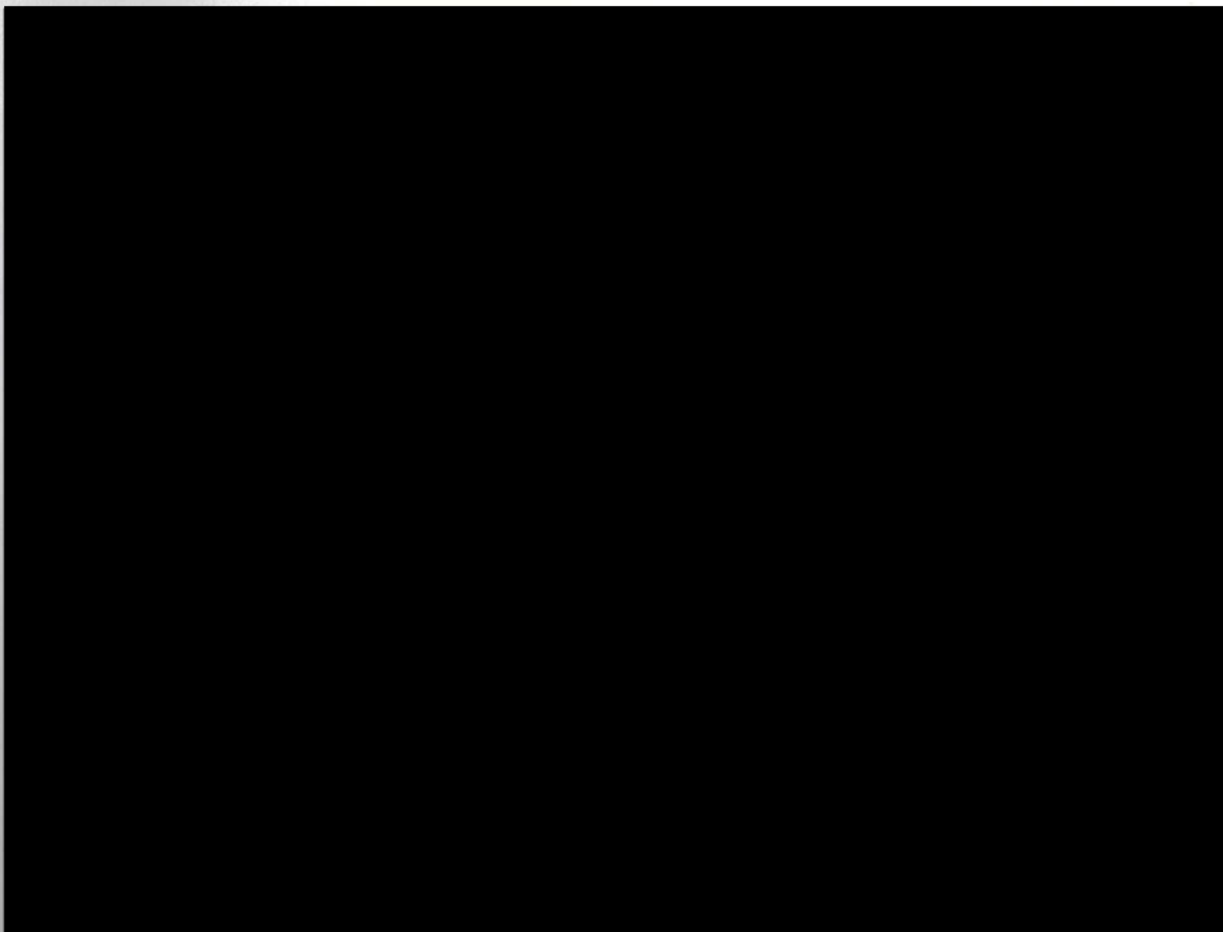












NK No. 8

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NGA KAIWAWAO  
HELD IN THE MANAGEMENT TEAM AREA,  
MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA  
BUCKLE STREET, WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 1994  
COMMENCING AT 10.00AM

PRESENT:

Apirana Mahuika (Chair)  
Sir Hamish Hay  
Georgina Te Heuheu  
Prof Anne Salmond

STAFF:

Cheryll Sotheran  
Cliff Whiting  
Robyn Wilkinson (Secretary)



*Museum of New Zealand*

*Te Papa Tongarewa*

*Buckle Street*

*P O, Box 467*

*Wellington New Zealand*

*Telephone +64-4-385 9609*

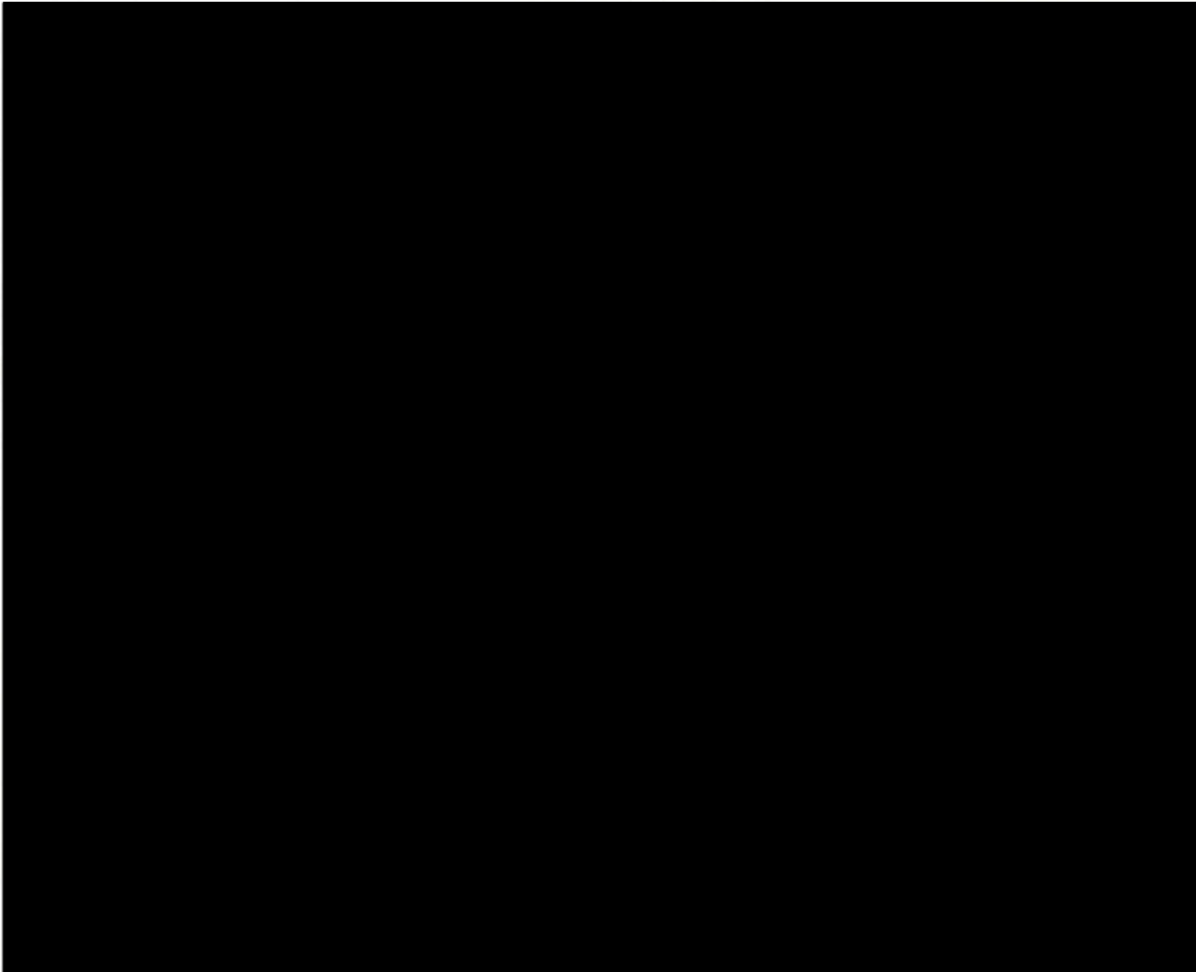
*Facsimile +64-4-385 7157*



4 **Day 1 Exhibitions Peer Review**

The Chief Executive reported that the Day 1 Exhibitions Peer Review held during the week 6-11 March had been a resounding success. In depth interviews with all Conceptual Leaders and discussions with senior staff had taken place and positive and productive decisions could now be made.

A very positive presentation by the Peer Review Team was given to members of the Operations and Planning Committee on Friday 11 March. The Chief Executive advised that interim recommendations would be tabled at this afternoon's Operations and Planning Committee meeting and a full report from the Peer Review Panel would be available for the Board Meeting on 23 March.





## OCTOBER

→ 12th  
 19th 10.00am Tīkanga Committee  
 2.00pm Nga Kaiwawao  
 Operations & Planning Committee

25th 3.30pm Project Committee

26th 9.00am Finance & Resources Committee  
 10.15am Board

## NOVEMBER

16th 10.00am Nga Kaiwawao  
 2.00pm Operations & Planning Committee

22nd 3.30pm Project Committee

23rd 9.00am Finance & Resources Committee  
 10.15am Board

With the development of the Maori Exhibitions Concepts and the integrated cultural exhibitions an involvement for the Tīkanga Committee and its role in obtaining both the business evidence. The meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> with Maori Board members Api Mahuika and Georgina Te Hau Heu over the Exhibition Concepts and with the Maori Exhibitions Team brought out discussions and issues that clearly stated the importance and the must-to have dialogue with Maori as iwi groups of specialist groups. Cultural Care and Authority to use information and taonga is a must



**Minutes of Te Komiti Tikanga Māori  
13 & 14 Pipiri, Buckle Street Board Room**

Present: Api Mahuika (Kaiwhakahaere)  
Graham Rankin  
Te Ru Wharehoka  
Noel Raihania  
Jaqui Te Kani  
Te Aue Davis  
Sir Hamish Hay  
Waana Davis  
Sandy Adsett

Apologies: Prof. Wharehuia Milroy  
Georgina Te Heuheu  
Maui Solomon  
Sir Tipene O'Regan



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Street

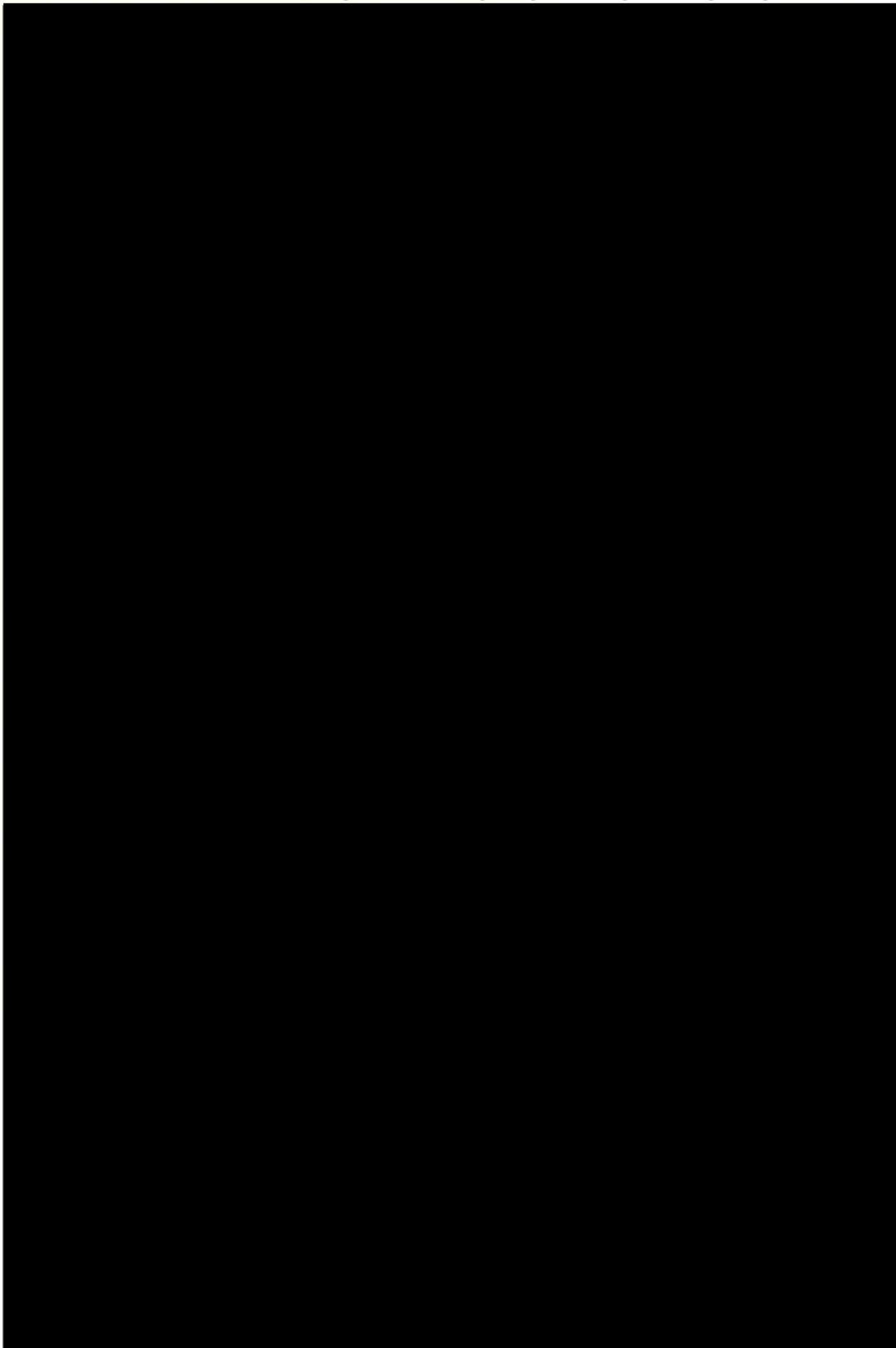
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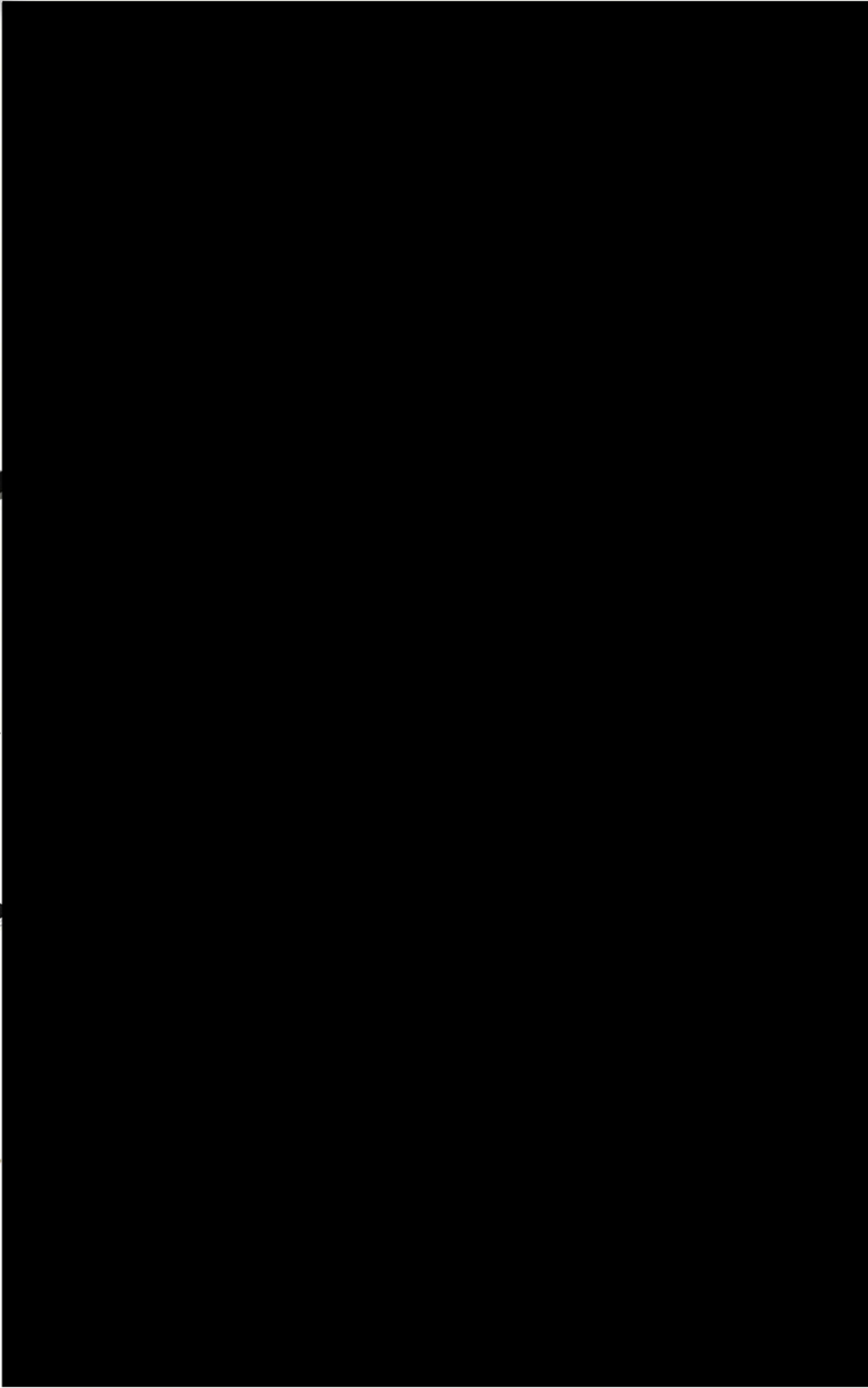
8 Māori Exhibitions Team Presentations

A full representation of the Māori exhibition team up-dated Te Komiti on how the exhibitions were developing, focusing particularly on Te Huka A Tai (Resource Centre), Mana Whenua and Mana Waka.

There was little comment from Te Komiti; those that were made were very complementary and enthusiastic.

There was a cautionary note for the team to be mindful of the issue of tikanga and that there should be greater opportunity for the team to link in with Te Komiti.

"Ko koutou nga ringaringa, kei a mātou nga whakāro me te mohiotanga ki a rātou, nga tipuna". [You are the hands, we are the (receptacle for the ...) thoughts and knowledge of them, the tipuna].





*J. Safety*

Museum of New Zealand  
Te Papa Tongarewa

Cable St  
PO Box 467  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Telephone  
64-4-381 7000  
Facsimile  
64-4-381 7070  
mail@tepapa.govt.nz

NO. 60  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA BOARD  
HELD AT TE PAPA CABLE STREET, WELLINGTON  
10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 1998

PRESENT

Sir Ronald Trotter	Chairman
Mrs. R Burdon	
Mr. D Gascoigne	
Mrs. J Gibbs	
Mr. A Mahuika	
Professor Anne Salmond, DBE	
Mrs. S Wood	

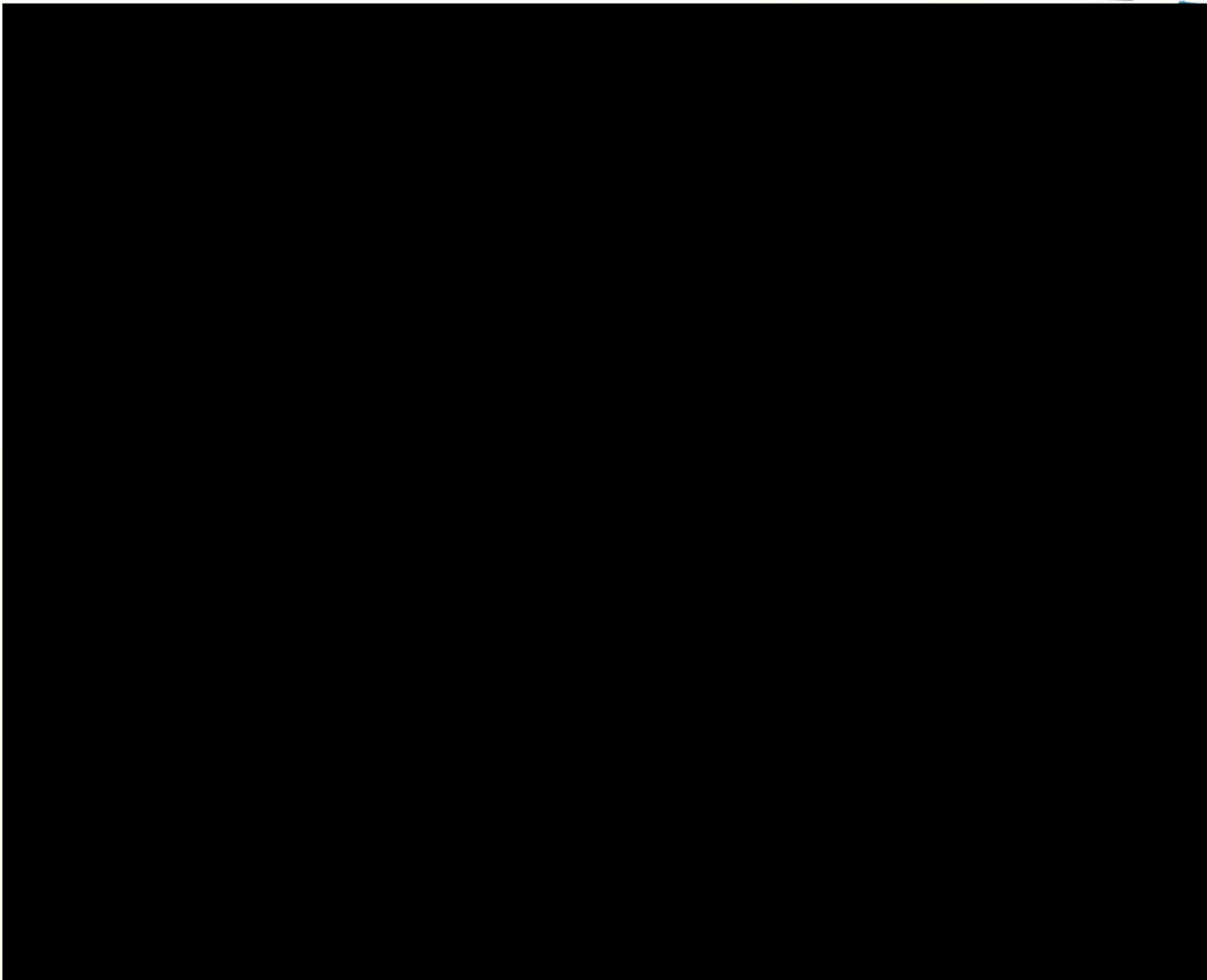
IN ATTENDANCE

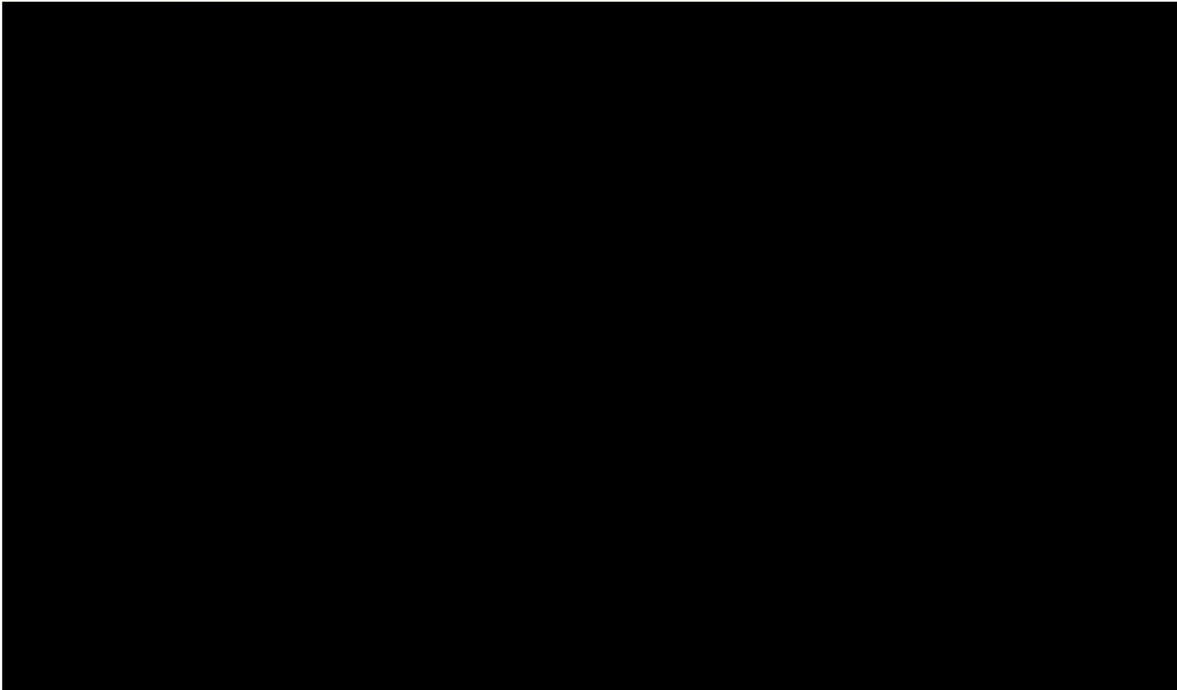
Ms C Sotheran	Chief Executive
Mr. J Edmonds	Kaitakawaenga
Mr. K Martin	Financial Controller
Mr. D Brice	Senior Adviser

APOLOGIES

Nil

TE PAPA  
OUR PLACE



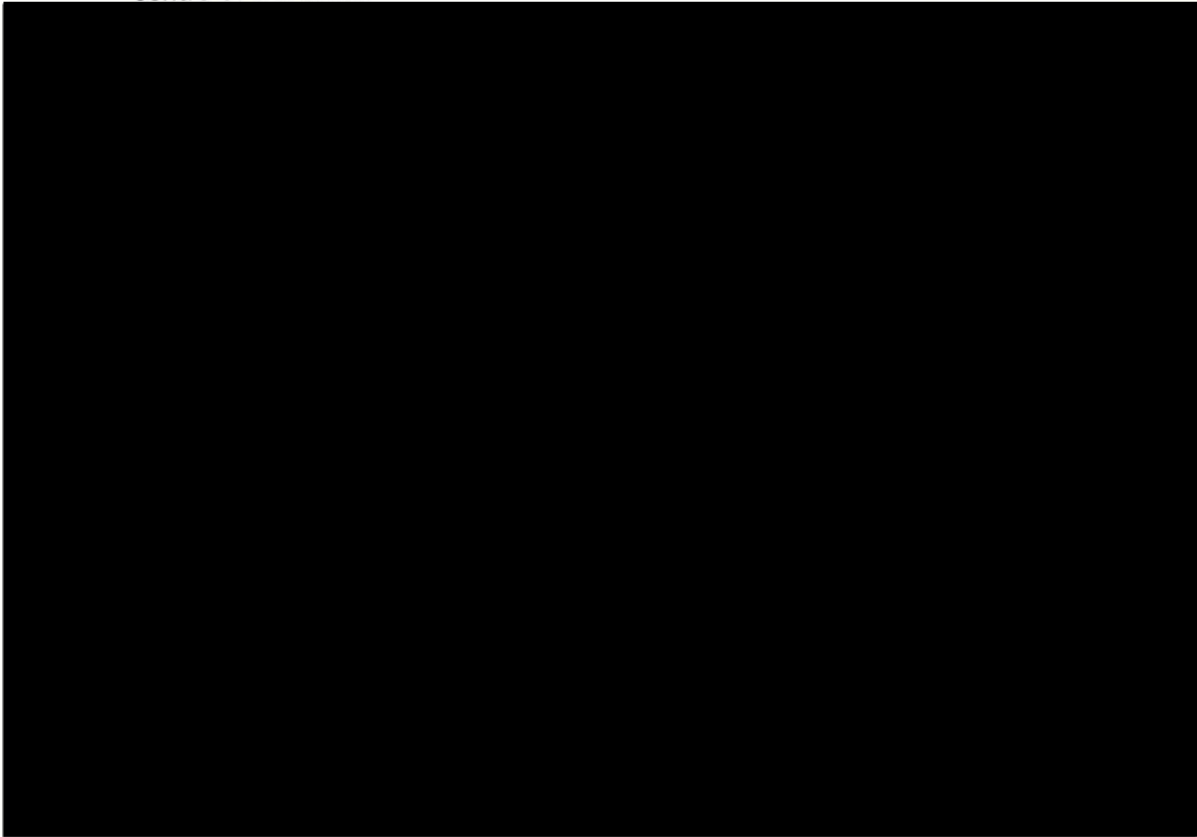


**PART C: REPORTS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Signs of a Nation**

13. A complaint has been received against Te Papa's Treaty exhibition *Signs of a Nation*. The Chief Executive will review the Pepper's Ghost display that is at the centre of the issue.



Correspondence  
15 April 1998

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## CORRESPONDENCE

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Two official complaints have been made against Te Papa: one to the Office of the Ombudsman; and the other to the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator.

The first is a complaint made by *The Dominion* newspaper under the Official Information Act. Te Papa declined to provide information on the takings from its commercial operations over the weekend of opening, 14 & 15 February. The view of management is as presented in the attached response to the Ombudsman.

The complaint lodged with the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator pertains to *Signs of the Nation*, Te Papa's Treaty exhibition. It has been agreed that a representative of the Office will visit the exhibition before a determination is made.

Finally, a number of items of correspondence in respect of the *Pictura Britannica* exhibition have been received addressed to the Board. The attached example is representative of the general tenor.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board receive the correspondence for the period since 18 March 1998.





30 MAR 1998

OFFICE OF THE RACE RELATIONS CONCILIATOR

TE TARI WHAKAWHANAUNGA-A-IWI

25 March 1998

Mr Bill Tramposch  
Director of resources  
Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand  
PO Box 467  
WELLINGTON

s9(2)(a)

Dear Mr Tramposch

I wish to inform you that the Office has received a complaint from [REDACTED] about an exhibit in the Museum of New Zealand entitled "Government".

[REDACTED] alleges that the exhibit is culturally insensitive, subjective and historically inaccurate. [REDACTED] alleges that the exhibit will cause anti-white feelings and says that it is presented "in a propagandistic and agitational manner."

The complaint will be considered under section 61 of the Human Rights Act 1993 (copy enclosed). Under section 61(1)(a) it is unlawful to broadcast by means of radio or television words which are threatening, abusive and insulting; being matter or words which are likely to excite hostility against or bring into contempt any group of persons in or who may be coming to New Zealand on the ground of the colour, race, or ethnic or national origin of that group of persons.

I would appreciate if you could supply a copy of the video so that its content can be considered under the provisions of section 61.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 0800 808 440.

Yours sincerely

  
Philip Watts

MEDIATION OFFICER

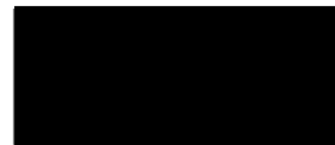
PW:PW

Enclosure : section 61 of the Human Rights Act 1993

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s9(2)(a)



123 MAR 1998

Dr R Prasad  
Race Relations Conciliator  
Vogel Building  
8 Aitken St  
Thomdon

Dear Dr Prasad

I wish to lodge a complaint concerning an exhibit in the National Museum.

The exhibit, entitled "Government", features a continually running video-tape which ostensibly gives a history of the impact of British settlement of New Zealand, comprising actors supposedly representative of both past and present European and Maori giving views on race relations, settlement and so forth.

The characters representing Europeans are portrayed in a negative manner, while the Maori characters are portrayed as righteously angered. "British justice is subjected to ridicule, with one "American" character lauding revolution and how the Americans overthrew British rule (an incitement to violence).

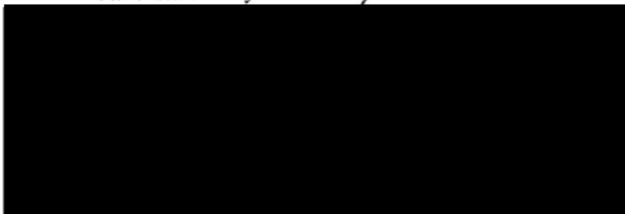
The exhibit is culturally insensitive, subjective, and historically inaccurate. It is transparently designed to induce or reinforce negative feelings in European New Zealanders towards themselves, their culture and heritage, and their forefathers. On the other hand, the exhibit will encourage anti-white feelings and resentment on the part of Maoris.

As a parent, I am particularly concerned as to the negative impact this exhibit will have on children.

As a student of history, I am concerned that the views characterised in the exhibit have been poorly researched and presented in a propagandistic and agitational manner. A balanced and historically accurate representation could have emphasised the predominant role bankers and speculators had on the settlement of New Zealand and the manner European settlers (themselves attempting to escape the injustices of Victorian England) had to place themselves in thrall to bankers and speculators who charged 10% to 15% interest for miserable plots of land. An historically accurate exhibit might have pointed out how the principal winners of the Maori Land wars were the founders of the BNZ who instigated such wars through their positions in colonial administrations, were sold confiscated land at illegally reduced prices and gained through speculation, at the expense of the ordinary settler.

Such history is a matter of public record, and was referred to by such figures as John A. Lee. If the staff of the National Museum are ignorant of history, I will be pleased to provide them with relevant sources, in order that they might change the exhibit to something of genuinely educational value.

Yours sincerely



s9(2)(a)

31 March 1998

Mr. Philip Watts  
Mediation Officer  
Office of the Race Relations Conciliator  
PO Box 1578  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Mr. Watts

### **Human Rights Act Complaint**

I refer to your letter, dated 25 March 1998, and our telephone conversation earlier today with respect to the complaint brought against the exhibition "Government". As near as I can tell, based on the supplied copy of the letter from the complainant, the display at issue is an element of Te Papa's exhibition *Signs of the Nation: The Treaty Always Speaks*. This particular exhibition segment is a display, using 'Pepper's Ghost' technology, that presents a documentary re-creation of various discussions of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The complainant claims that the exhibition is "culturally insensitive, subjective and historically inaccurate". It is the view of Te Papa's management that this complaint is without substance.

The central concept of Te Papa's Treaty of Waitangi exhibition is to present both the actuality of the Treaty – what is written in the document – and the history of its interpretation and application. To this end, a range of media has been employed to present a cross-section of view on the Treaty and its significance to New Zealand society. In some cases, this is done with original artefacts and documentary evidence; in others, with dramatic recreations. Treaty issues are the subject of much controversy within this country and, as such, it is appropriate that differences of opinion – many subjective views, if you will – are recognised and recorded. In fact, this is very much the case with the 'Pepper's Ghost' sequences which contain several different shades of opinion – some radically so – of the Treaty and its implications.

All of Te Papa's exhibitions are underpinned by the most stringent scholarship and supported by extensive research. This is a corporate principle of the museum and not one taken lightly. However, the interpretation each visitor takes from this, and every other, exhibition is left for them to decide.

Since all exhibitions are integrated, three-dimensional public experiences, it would be inappropriate for the video used in the 'Pepper's Ghost' segment of the exhibition to be viewed in isolation from the experience as a whole. To this end, I understand that a member of your Office's Wellington staff will arrange with me to visit the exhibition. If, subsequently, you still wish to view the video material, it will be made available.

I trust this arrangement meets with your approval.

Yours sincerely



Desmond Brice  
**Senior Adviser**



Board : 23  
Item No : 4 c)

BOARD PAPER 27/7/94

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**PREPARATION OF DAY ONE EXHIBITION PLAN  
Supplementary Agenda**

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Please note the following four (4) papers are the results from last week's Special OPC meeting.

21 July 1994

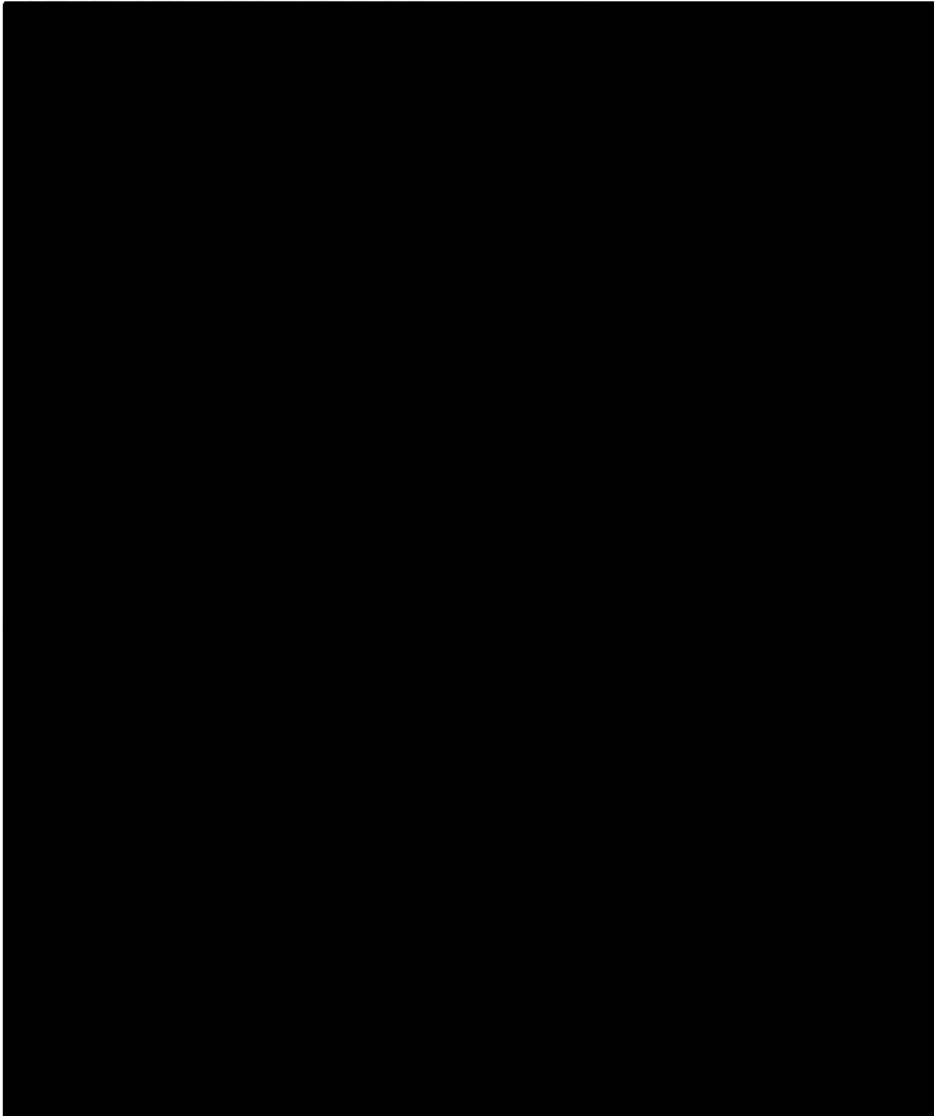
*CS*



**NOTE**

Wave 1 Exhibition List, Space and Cost

<u>Exhibition</u>	<u>Space m<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Cost \$</u>
Integrated Treaty	430	1,256,550



History			
Cooping of New Zealand	100		
Whitonga Curator	200		
Tea and New Zealand	300		X
Art			
Art Deco	200	X	
Art Nouveau	200	O	X

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Budget

MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND

RUSSELL DRYSDALE AND THOMAS

TREATY  
18/11/96 #9

DEVELOPED DESIGN

SUMMARY

1.0 POLES			193320
2.0 TREATY			352479
3.0 MEZZANINE ACCESS			135430
4.0 MEZZANINE			153660
5.0 UNDER MEZZANINE			32500
6.0 AUDIO VISUAL			101564
7.0 LIGHTING			87400
8.0 ESTIMATING CONTINGENCY	13 %		125964
Subtotal			1182317
Budget Original		129835	
		2	
less Construction Management levy	10 %	129835	
			1168517
<b>Under (Over) Budget</b>	<b>-1%</b>		<b>(13,800)</b>

1.0 POLES

Elliptical display unit 1000 dia x 600 high with backlit graphic panels and power connection	2 no	2150	4300
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Steel tube structures, special finish 3 to 7m tall	48 no	2350	112800
Bases to last	48 no	540	25920
UGS to steel tube structures	12 no	500	6000
Lightbox including glass	12 no	2850	34200
Duratrans	12 no	1200	14400

**Total for Poles carried to summary 193320**

2.0 TREATY

Seating, bench seat with backs 4000 long	4 no	3000	12000
Elliptical display unit 1000 dia x 600 high with backlit graphic panels and power connection	4 no	2150	8600
MDF panels with applied paint and sand finish	86 m2	320	27520
Support structure for last	LS		59400
MDF panels with Kahikatea veneer	48 m2	332	15936
Support structure for last	LS		12000
Applied graphics to last	48 m2	250	12000
Glass wall suspended including graphics	LS		132861
Steel structure to last	LS		72162

**Total for Treaty carried to summary 352479**

3.0 MEZZANINE ACCESS

Steel structure/stairs etc	LS		38250
Decking/treads to last	LS		5500



# RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Flooring to last including nosings	LS		5580
Balustrades/handrails	51 m	400	20400
Enclosure for lift including plant room, power etc	64 m2	300	19200
Lift including doors and controls	LS		46500
<b>Total for Mezzanine Access carried to summary</b>			<b>135430</b>

## 4.0 MEZZANINE AREA

Carpet to elliptical shape only	101 m2	120	12120
Interactive display units, complete with support structure, 2x lights and graphics	16 no	4480	71680
Elliptical display unit 1800 dia x 600 high with backlit graphic panels and power connection	1 no	3800	3800
Seating, bench seat with backs 2000 long	1 no	2000	2000
Computer interactive			
Seats	3 no	500	1500
Labels	3 no	200	600
Lights	3 no	500	1500
Contribution to MM budget	LS		10000
Database computer			
Computer complete	1 no	3500	3500
Seats	1 no	500	500
Labels	1 no	200	200
Lights	1 no	500	500
Programming	LS		0
Internet computer			
Computer complete	1 no	3500	3500
Seats	1 no	500	500
Labels	1 no	200	200
Hook up	LS		5000

Central storage unit, overall 4000 x 1200 x 2500 high with double folding whiteboard	1 no	7500	7500
<b>AV mobile and equipment (not allowed for)</b>	LS		0
Seats, organic shape	3 no	4000	12000
Blackout curtains by CP6	40 m2	0	0
Display case 800 x 600 with 450 high top	1 no	2850	2850
Graphic panels 2000 x 3000	2 no	2400	4800
Labels	3 no	220	660
Thematic labels	2 no	550	1100
Framed replicas of treaty (props)	9 no	850	7650

<b>Total for Mezzanine carried to summary</b>	<b>153660</b>
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## 5.0 UNDER MEZZANINE

Governance and Peppers ghost unit complete including cabinet, mirrors and glass, (audio included seperately).	1 no	15000	15000
UGS to last	LS		2500
Cases complete	2 no	3850	7700
Seats, 1400 long	2 no	2000	4000
Labels	15 no	220	3300

<b>Total for Under Mezzanine carried to summary</b>	<b>32500</b>
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# RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

## 6.0 AUDIO VISUAL - (details provided by Chris Cullinane)

Governance loudspeaker	8 No	640	5120
Land loudspeaker	8 No	640	5120
Citizen's rights loudspeaker	8 No	640	5120
Voices induction loop	3 No	610	1830
Pepper's ghosts monitor	1 No	4650	4650
Pepper's ghost loudspeakers	1 No	640	640
Power amplifier channels NCR13LPA	7 No	612	4284
<i>Signal processing channels and control not included</i>	LS		0
Production - Poles	LS		10000
Production - Governance and Peppers	LS		64800

<b>Total for Audion Visual carried to Summary</b>	<b>101564</b>
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## 7.0 LIGHTING

Lighting design by Marc Simpson	LS		87400
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<b>Total for Lighting carried to summary</b>	<b>87400</b>
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**Financial Controller's Report**  
Board, 18 September 1996

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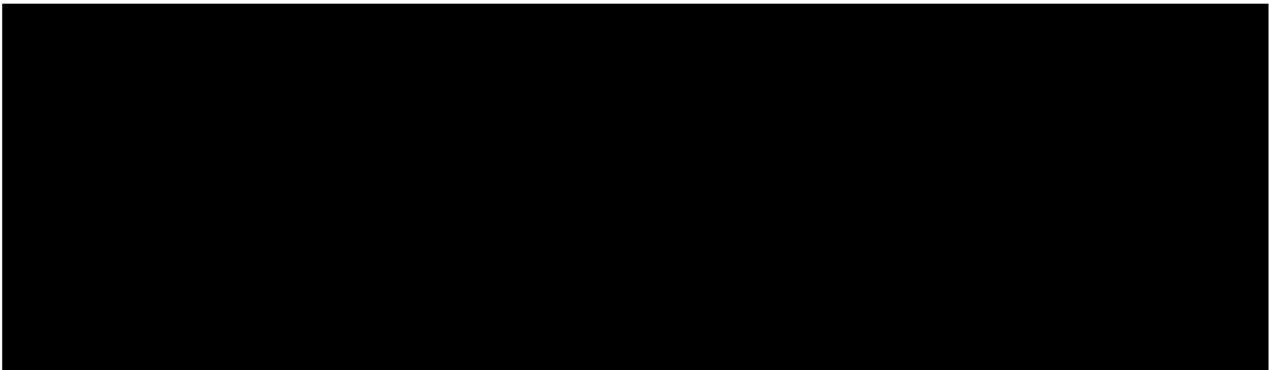
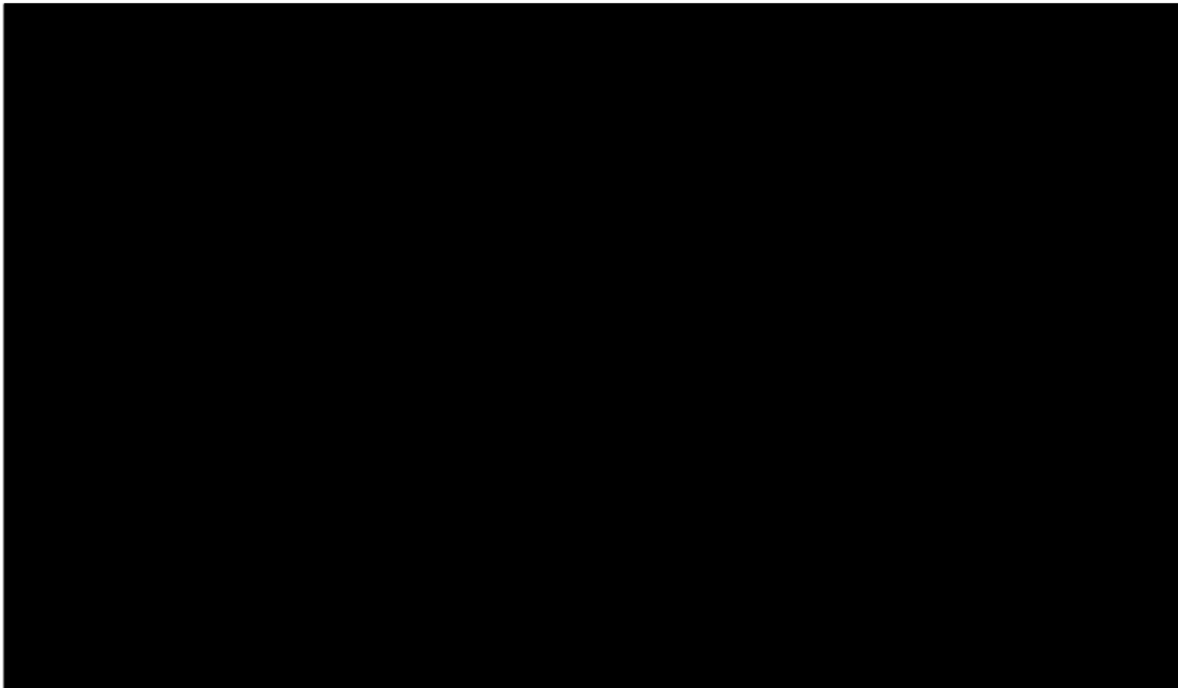
**REPORT OF CONTRACT APPROVALS TEAM**

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1. The following recommendations and approvals have been made by the Contracts Approval Team (CAT) since the last report:

**Chief Executive's Delegations** - individual consultancies up to \$100,000 approved by the Chief Executive or the Acting Chief Executive on the recommendations of CAT:

- |     |  |              |
|-----|--|--------------|
| (a) | Designers for Treaty Exhibition<br>Pete Bossley Architects | \$30,600 max |
| (b) | Researcher for Treaty Exhibition<br>Tom Bennion            | \$10,000 max |



**Frances Lawrence**

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**From:** Amy Phillips  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 December 2021 7:28 am  
**To:** Frances Lawrence  
**Subject:** FW: Te Tiriti exhibition

Kia ora Frances,

Please see below email – Claudia forwarded to me. There is also a reply to a complaint here from 2006:  
<https://poumataaho.tpp.cloud.opentext.com/OTCS/llisapi.dll/app/nodes/567231>

What's the timeframe for this response? I will not have time to get to Tory St to sift through records this week but hopefully next before I go on leave.

Ngā mihi,  
Amy

---

**From:** Claudia Orange <[claudia.orange@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:claudia.orange@tepapa.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 December 2021 3:47 pm  
**To:** Amy Phillips <[Amy.Phillips@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:Amy.Phillips@tepapa.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Te Tiriti exhibition

Amy hi  
I have found the complaint which was from a Whangarei city councillor [REDACTED] You might want to send it on. I did respond to her but might not be on file. The OIA asked for rather a lot!!  
Claudia s(till happy to talk when feasible)

**From** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 December 2021 7:22 AM  
**To:** Claudia Orange <[claudia.orange@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:claudia.orange@tepapa.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Te Tiriti exhibition

Kia ora Dame Claudia  
I intend to bring it up with creative nz and others who i will urge to contribute funds to change the display.  
Nga mihi  
[REDACTED]

On Thu, 2 Dec 2021 at 9:14 PM, Claudia Orange <[claudia.orange@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:claudia.orange@tepapa.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia Ora [REDACTED]  
You are no doubt right. Labels make clear the te reo Tiriti but the impact of the present presentation does not capture the significance of te Tiriti. I will take an opportunity to raise this with the leaders team soon.  
All good wishes. Claudia  
Sent from my iPhone

On 30/11/2021, at 3:34 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora Dame Claudia Orange,

I wrote to you some years ago about the large display of the wording of Te Tiriti at Te Papa. I noted that displaying the signed version in Te Reo and the English version in English was misleading. At the time you said there was no money to rectify this. I would like to reopen this discussion.

How much it would cost to remove or remove and replace the tall display? In the interests of good Treaty education, it is vital.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Claudia Orange  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED] greetings - I will call you later today Monday if convenient

Sent: 9/03/2015 11:28:10 a.m.

Message Comment Headers Journal Report Access History Tags

Thank you.  
Yes it is.

[REDACTED]

**Dr Claudia Orange DNZM**

Head of Research  
Office of the Chief Executive  
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa  
P O Box 467 WELLINGTON  
DDI: +64 4 381 7008 HOME +64 4 473 1912

**email: [Claudia.Orange@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:Claudia.Orange@tepapa.govt.nz)**  
**www.tepapa.govt.nz**

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Visit the Te Papa website <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz>

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**From:** [Claudia Orange](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] greetings - I will call you later today Monday if convenient

**Sent:** 9/03/2015 11:06:33 a.m.

Message Comment Headers Journal Report Access History Tags

**Dr Claudia Orange DNZM**

Head of Research

Office of the Chief Executive

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

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**email:** [Claudia.Orange@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:Claudia.Orange@tepapa.govt.nz)

[www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)

10 November 2006

File Ref: B225-13

[REDACTED]  
Network Waitangi Whangarei  
P O Box 5098  
WHANGAREI

Dear [REDACTED]

***Signs of a Nation | Ngā Tohu Kotahitanga***

Thank you for your letter dated 30 October 2006 that expresses concerns about Te Papa's *Signs of a Nation | Ngā Tohu Kotahitanga* exhibition and the impressions it might convey to the visitor.

You note what you refer to as the 'minimal' explanation of the differences between the two Treaty texts – one in English and one in Māori. You also make other suggestions that I need to comment on, as you perhaps missed seeing three explanatory labels.

The two Treaty texts are indeed juxtaposed opposite each other. However, the information about them is clearly presented, and is expressed in a succinct way and brief enough for most visitors to read and understand. This information is positioned underneath each Treaty copy on a large console. It draws attention to the key problems in the understanding conveyed in the Treaty. The label is repeated on each side:

*There are several significant differences between the English and Māori texts of the Treaty. For instance, 'Kawanatanga' which is usually translated as 'government' appears in the Māori version. But in the English version this part of the text reads 'absolute sovereignty'. The idea of a supreme ruler over the entire country would have been completely alien to most Māori. Another difference concerns the words 'tino rangatiratanga' of chiefly authority. This is promised in the Māori version, but is missing from the English. It's unlikely any chief would have signed away his authority.*

In addition, beneath the large art presentation of the Treaty in Māori that hangs in the central section of *Signs of a Nation*, there is another large console. This holds three copies of the Treaty: (Note that one is the Kawharu text you mention.)

1. The Hugh Kawharu translation of the original Māori Treaty
2. The Māori Treaty copy first signed at Waitangi
3. The English Treaty copy

The label asks the visitor to consider the difference: *Spot the difference. When the words of the Treaty were rendered in Māori there were several differences*



*between the Māori and English versions. Today, if we translate the Māori version into modern English even more differences and difficulties arise.*

While a great deal more could be added, the above explanations give visitors an incentive to ask further questions and to move upstairs where there is a large exhibition on the modern history of the Treaty. The 1835 Declaration of Independence you mention is certainly of interest and relevant to the Treaty's history, though mainly to the north where it was mostly signed and best known. More detailed exposition, including expanding on the role of the Declaration, would no doubt add substantially to the explanations given, and this will be taken into account in any revision of the exhibition.

However, other avenues have enabled Te Papa to give full explanations and encourage knowledge and discussion on the Treaty. The Museum has many classes each year and provides very good lessons on the Treaty.

This year funding also enabled us to mount *TREATY 2U: A Touring Exhibition* – an exhibition in a large mobile trailer that travelled to thirty-five locations around the country and was visited by nearly 40,000 people, including thousands of school children. It is being prepared for a second three-month tour commencing early in 2007.

In February each year, we also mount two evenings of what we call Treaty 'debates'. Māori and non-Māori speakers give up-to-date presentations of various aspects of Treaty issues. These are recorded by Radio New Zealand and have been played on National Radio several times. The event allows us to present the Treaty in all its complexity in ways that are less easy in exhibition formats.

Once again, we do appreciate your concerns and want to assure you that we will consider them in any refreshment of the exhibition *Signs of a Nation*.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

Dr Claudia Orange OBE  
**DIRECTOR HISTORY AND PACIFIC CULTURES**

Copy to: Minister and Associate Ministers for Arts, Culture and Heritage  
Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage  
Joris de Bres, Race Relations Commissioner  
Paul Tapsell, Auckland War Memorial Museum  
John Judge, Chairman, Te Papa

Network Waitangi Whangarei  
P O Box 5098  
Whangarei



**NETWORK  
WAITANGI  
WHANGAR**

30 October 2006

Dr Seddon Bennington  
Chief Executive Officer  
Te Papa Tongarewa  
Wellington

Greetings

### **Signs of a Nation – Nga Tohu Kotahitanga**

Network Waitangi Whangarei is one of many groups throughout the country providing independent adult education on the Treaty of Waitangi to a variety of community groups.

We note the museum's mission statement includes the phrase "...to better understand and treasure the past, enrich the present, and provide for the challenges of the future."

With this in mind we invite you to consider the efficacy of presenting Te Papa's national and international visitors with two very different texts of the Treaty of Waitangi, only one of which is in English, with minimal explanation of the differences in meaning of the texts.

We believe that understanding these differences provides a key element to interpreting the complex interactions and misunderstandings between Maori and Pakeha which characterise our history.

Many visitors to Te Papa will leave the museum with the impression that Maori ceded their sovereignty to the Crown – literally writ large in the English text in the Signs of a Nation display on Level 4 – without knowing that the Maori text opposite is not a true reflection of this, despite being juxtaposed as if it were.

Visitors have a right to know that Maori did not cede sovereignty – as you know the treaty they signed allowed the British to exercise a form of governance alongside the existing independent sovereignty of hapu (described best in the 1835 Declaration of Independence, which also appears to be missing on Level 4).

Others will no doubt have raised this issue with you previously. We raise it again now following the recent death of Sir Hugh Kawharu, who gifted to the nation a modern translation of the Maori language text that Te Papa itself displayed in its Treaty 2 U roadshow exhibition last year.

To replace the current English text with this translation would be a timely and tremendous tribute to and acknowledgment of Sir Hugh's contribution to our country, while implementing the ideals in the museum's mission statement.

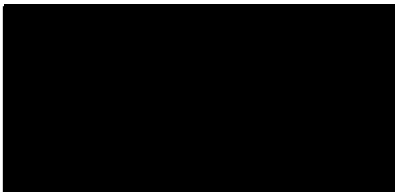
We believe we cannot provide for the challenges of the future from a base of collective confusion of our fundamental contractual obligations which the present display perpetuates as a continuing deceit.

In our work over the past 20 years, following the government-funded Project Waitangi initiative, Treaty educators have found that participants in workshops readily accept the differences in the two Treaties and feel empowered by comparing and contrasting them.

Rather than creating confusion, our experience is that for many this understanding is the key to unlocking the historical puzzle, creating a balanced framework from which to view the ensuing effects of colonisation which form the basis of our current cultural and constitutional dilemmas.

We strongly urge you to provide that key for visitors to Te Papa.

Yours sincerely



s9(2)(a)

Network Waitangi Whangarei

cc.

The Rt Hon Judith Tizard  
Dr Roderick S Deane, Chairman  
Board Members  
Te Taru White, Kaihautu  
Joris de Bres, Race Relations Commissioner  
Human Rights Commission  
Paul Tapsell, Auckland Museum

This letter was endorsed by the National Tangata Tiriti Educators Conference 2006, Hamilton October 27-30.