

3 April 2012

Mr Lewis Holden
The Chief Executive
Ministry of Culture and Heritage Te Manatu Taonga
PO Box 5364
WELLINGTON 6145

Redevelopment Project for the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare O Rehua Whanganui

Dear Sir,

Please find attached the Sarjeant Gallery's application to the Ministry for Culture & Heritage's Regional Museums Policy for Capital Construction Projects.

Since late 2011 this application has been the focus of attention for many of the Gallery staff, as well as a number of senior Wanganui District Council officers. The result, along with expert input and guidance from the Giblin Group, is one which we feel illustrates the best solution for the long-term benefit of the Gallery and the people of Wanganui.

The Project focusses on two main areas: seismic strengthening and environmental control of the existing building and development of a new wing named in honour of Sir Archie Taiaroa. The latter will house the entire Collection; provide for new environmentally controlled exhibition spaces; an auditorium; a purpose-built educational space; dedicated spaces for Iwi protocol; events space; staff accommodation; space for the Gallery library; and a café.

By enabling the creation of these new spaces and an augmentation of the original Gallery, staff will be able to ensure that the breadth and depth of this Collection is revealed. Once the Gallery has the capacity to fully exploit these riches, the true cultural value of this Nationally Significant collection will come to the fore.

This Redevelopment Project honours Henry Sarjeant's legacy and provides for a well-conceived, positive and inclusive future for the Gallery, at the centre of Wanganui's cultural life. Not only will this endeavour ensure that the Sarjeant remains viable as an art museum in the Twenty-First Century, it also guarantees that one of the leading lights of New Zealand's culture and arts infrastructure, remains enhanced and available for the enjoyment of everyone well into the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Anderson
Senior Curator, Sarjeant Gallery