

Documents for release: Excerpted reports from Ngā Taonga and briefings from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Ngā Taonga Six-monthly Report 2015-16: 1 July 2015 – 31 December 2015

“Significant Risks and Opportunities

While the approved storage conditions KPI is being met, one site remains problematic. The cold vault at Avalon, which was designed to operate at 7 – 8°C, is well above Ngā Taonga’s colour film storage standard. The other areas of concern are Christchurch where the storage is air-conditioned but not dehumidified or sealed, and the Wellington Map Room (Buckle St) facility. This regularly moves outside the preferred conditions though overall maintains a relatively stable environment. In light of these concerns, Standards undertook a review of the archive’s storage facilities and conditions.”

NOTES FOR PAUL JAMES FOR NGĀ TAONGA BOARD MEETING: Friday 11 December 2015, 9-10am

“Moving collections to Avalon

- If the seismic strengthening programme goes ahead, Ngā Taonga is likely to need to move the collections held in Taranaki Street to Avalon, using all the space not currently used by the TVNZ Archive collection. This may conflict with a recent request from the Chief Archivist to MCH and Ngā Taonga to move the Archives NZ collections to the Avalon vaults while Archives NZ does its seismic strengthening work on its Wellington building.”

Briefing: MEETING WITH NGĀ TAONGA SOUND & VISION BOARD AND WEBSITE LAUNCH, January 2016

“Moving collections to Avalon

- 17 If Ngā Taonga’s seismic strengthening programme goes ahead (see below), Ngā Taonga is likely to need to move the collections held in Taranaki Street to Avalon, using all the space not currently used by the TVNZ Archive collection. This may conflict with a recent request from the Chief Archivist to MCH and Ngā Taonga to move the Archives NZ collections to the Avalon vaults while Archives NZ does its seismic strengthening work on its Wellington building.”

Email from Carrie Cooke, Media Policy Manager, MCH, to the EA to the Group Manager Policy, MCH RE: Proposed meeting Archives NZ/ Paul Barker on 25th August about Archives NZ long term strategy, 16 August 2016

“Nga Taonga and Archives NZ:

- In current discussions regarding the use of “Avalon” (a facility in Miramar, owned by Archives NZ, and leased to Nga Taonga for storage of archive material):
 - Archives NZ is in discussion with Nga Taonga to temporarily move some of their material into Avalon, while they renovate some of their own storage.
 - Subject to your view, our position is that this is a matter for archives NZ and Nga Taonga to agree. Archives NZ have a clear contract leasing the space to Nga Taonga, so they cannot simply move in – they must come to an agreement.
 - Rebecca Elvy (Nga Taonga’s CE) is working the issue through with Archives NZ, and at present it does not need our engagement. However, Archives NZ

may raise it in their meeting with you. This would be our first engagement with Archives NZ on this topic.

[Withheld under s9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982.]”

Briefing: NGĀ TAONGA SOUND AND VISION: DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015/16, November 2016

“Operations: increase in salaries due to new positions hired during the year, increase in overheads due to Ngā Taonga becoming the Archive Manager for the TVNZ Collection and paying for the facilities used at Avalon, and costs associated with investigating earthquake strengthening proposals.”

Briefing: NGA TAONGA SOUND & VISION: FOR SEISMIC STRENGTHENING RESPONSE TO CHAIR'S LETTER ON FUNDING, December 2015

“3. In the past year the Archive acquired approximately 600,000 items, being the contents of the TVNZ Archive, housed in Crown-owned facilities at Avalon, Lower Hutt. This acquisition quadrupled the size of the Archive's collections.”

Monthly Cultural Agency Report for Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision: November 2016

“Ngā Taonga’s audiovisual collection was unaffected by the recent major earthquake and aftershocks in the South Island and Wellington, with no damage to report. The Archive’s facilities and vaults in Wellington, Avalon, the Kapiti Coast and Christchurch were closed for a couple of days to allow engineers to check and confirm our buildings were safe.”

Email from Rebecca Elvy, CE of Ngā Taonga, to Paul James, CE of MCH, Re: Update on Changes at Ngā Taonga, 19 December 2016

“The changes include moving the national sound collection from where it is currently stored in makeshift facilities in Christchurch to a more appropriate, purpose-built vault at Avalon, Lower Hutt. Our team has put considerable thought and analysis into the decision. We have staff who have been based in Christchurch for a long time; we tried hard to find solutions that would enable the collection to remain in Christchurch, but found it would be unaffordable. Avalon is the best viable option available to safeguard this nationally significant collection.”

161209 Fact Sheet for Stakeholders

“We already have purpose-built, climate-controlled facilities at Avalon with the capacity to safely house the sound collection at no additional cost. These are built to a high standard of resilience to natural disasters.”