

5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**RE: Submission to the Tasman District Council Long Term Plan 2021-2031 by Tasman Bays Heritage Trust, requesting financial support towards the construction of the new ARC (Archives, Research and Collections) Facility to house the Regional Heritage Collection**

Tēnā koutou

I am writing on behalf of Tasman Bays Heritage Trust | Nelson Provincial Museum to submit to the the **2020 Vision for Tasman: Tasman District Council Long Term Plan 2021-2031**

Tasman Bays Heritage Trust, which operates as Nelson Provincial Museum, is the regional museum of Nelson Tasman.

Nelson Provincial Museum holds one of the strongest regional collections in New Zealand, especially the nationally significant and UNESCO inscribed photographic collection. Valued at around \$20 million, the collection comprises approximately 200,000 objects, 1.2 million photographs and 150,000 original, rare and one-off paper documents (manuscripts, maps, books etc) that provide a unique and personal insight into our region's rich history.

As a Museum, we are cognisant of our role as kaitiaki of the Tasman region's material culture and heritage for future generations. The Museum also has a wider role in contributing to the wellbeing of our people through social and cultural outcomes. The contribution that we can make to this area is reflected in our Vision Statement:

'To care for, strengthen and make widely accessible the taonga and heritage collections of Nelson Tasman; and to create unforgettable experiences that stimulate awareness, celebrate diversity, incite action and entertain.'

This is reflected throughout our strategic plan (available on our website), and is especially reflected in the following part of our Mission:

- We will become more relevant in the lives of the public and our stakeholders by responding to current social, cultural, and environmental challenges and opportunities through our educational offerings, public programming, collecting and exhibitions

**Current state: the Research Facility at Isel Park**

As has been discussed with Joint Shareholders over many years, the current Research Facility, located in Isel Park in Stoke, is at the end of its natural life and is no longer able to house the Nelson Tasman region's collections in a safe and appropriate way. As far back as 1995 the Nelson Provincial Museum's Storage Requirements Report identified storage capacity as having "reached a critical

point with no space to expand for adequate safe storage of the existing collections, let alone the normal flow of donations to those collections.”

Overall, the Isel Park building is no longer adequate for its use as a research facility with public access and has a limited functional life.

- The building is 45 years old, does not meet rising earthquake standards (30% NBS) and is at risk from flooding from Poorman’s Valley Stream as well as falling trees (narrowly escaping damage from falling trees July 2008 and again December 2012) as well as vandalism and theft.
- The current facility does not meet conservation storage and care standards, lacks efficient air-conditioning and sufficient insulation and is hard to maintain required temperature and humidity controls as well as lighting. It also has inadequate electrical infrastructure.
- The entire building requires re-wiring as well as roofing and plumbing repairs and replacement of one of the cold storage facilities.
- The building is too small to house all of the collections - some of the collections are stored in a container on-site and others at various off-site locations including the Elms Street Storage facility and other heritage premises such as Broadgreen House, Isel House and Founders Heritage Park. The building does not allow for sufficient space for staff or visitors.
- Public areas for use of collections are ad-hoc, cramped, and lack accessibility, with areas no longer able to meet changing user needs with access to computer terminals, laptop access and microfilm readers for example.
- Staff workspaces are inconvenient and inappropriate (some located in former storage spaces) and lack privacy. The cold, dark and isolated working conditions are inadequate for staff health and wellbeing including increased sickness, and have access issues for users with some disabilities.
- Designed initially as a viewing facility, it has been repurposed as a storage facility but not specifically for heritage materials.
- The Elms Street Storage Facility similarly has environmental control issues and is also subject to flooding and sea level rise.

### **The proposed ARC (Archives, Research and Collections) Facility**

The Museum is embarking on a capital works programme to enable us to preserve the regional heritage Collection for the future, currently stored at our Research Facility at Isel Park and at Elms St. For the Trust to continue to provide adequate care for the regional Collections, including the UNESCO inscribed Tyree Photographic Studio Collection, a new facility is required. Named the ARC (Archives, Research and Collections) Facility, the new store will enable us to preserve the collection for the next generation in climate-controlled facilities, provide appropriate taonga viewing facilities for iwi, and a place for all members of the community to access and connect with their heritage.

- Ensure the long-term heritage needs of Tasman and Nelson are able to be met
- Care for the collections in efficient, appropriate facilities
- To maximise councils’ investment into the Nelson Provincial Museum
- To generate best value for and best use by the community
- To enhance operating potential and reduce operating inefficiencies
- Bring all staff together in one location in suitable working conditions
- To consolidate all operations and activities onto one site

- To expand storage and collections areas

**Alignment of the ARC Facility with 2020 Vision for Tasman**

***TDC Community Outcomes***

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our unique natural environment is healthy, protected and sustainably managed</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Museum’s important natural history collections provide an important role in educating the public, generating awareness of the Tasman region’s unique environments, and an important conservation research resource</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our infrastructure is efficient, resilient, cost effective and meets current and future needs</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current Research Facility building does not meet current needs and is at high risk.</li> <li>• The proposed ARC Facility would provide a forward-looking, outward-facing community facility for the region</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our communities have opportunities to celebrate and explore their heritage, identity and creativity</li> </ul>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ARC Facility will preserve the material culture of the Tasman region; and be a repository for the community to engage with their taonga, historic objects and culture.</li> <li>• The wider Museum is a creative space where the public undertake hands-on learning and cultural engagement</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Council provides leadership and fosters partnerships including with iwi, a regional perspective, and community engagement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are supported in our mahi by the Te Tai Ao Komiti, representatives of the six mana whenua iwi of the Nelson Tasman rohe, who guide us in our mātauranga and kawa. As kaitiaki of many of the significant taonga of the region, we have an important role to play in supporting cultural connectedness.</li> <li>• The new ARC Facility will provide appropriate taonga viewing facilities for iwi</li> <li>• Nelson Provincial Museum is the regional museum of Nelson Tasman and the repository of the regional heritage collection</li> <li>• The Museum is focused on community engagement through life-long learning, outreach and physical connection with heritage</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and resilient</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We provide opportunities for community engagement, life-long learning and co-curated storytelling.</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <p>Our core activities are free for Nelson Tasman residents to access and our programming in a bi-cultural kaupapa will increasingly reflect the multicultural diversity of the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is increasingly recognised that the arts, culture and heritage sectors play an important role in creating liveable communities</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our communities have access to a range of social, cultural, educational and recreational facilities and activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We provide social engagement across demographics and opportunities for life-long learning, recreation and leisure. In the last year we have delivered free-of-charge programmes to almost 6,000 school-aged children, plus tertiary groups, ESL classes, pre-schoolers, aged communities, special interest groups and the general public.</li> <li>The ARC will provide an important cultural facility for the public to engage not only with the Museum exhibitions and education spaces, but also with the taonga, archives and collections</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our region is supported by an innovative and sustainable economy</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBHT is committed to sustainability and this is embedded in our strategic plan and annual Statement of Intent</li> <li>The new ARC Facility would economically utilise solar power and showcase this technology for the public</li> </ul>  |

***Te Tau Ihu Intergenerational Strategy key issues:***

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of coordinated leadership across the region</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ARC Facility capital works project has region-wide benefit</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tired infrastructure</li> </ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current Research Facility is at the end of its natural life and is falling in value annually. It can no longer fulfil its primary purpose and the regional collection will be at risk if the new facility is not funded</li> </ul> |

***Strategic Priorities***

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A healthy and sustainable natural environment</li> </ul> | <p>(g) Support our community with environmental education, advice, information, and assistance to access funding to be stewards of the environment and make sustainable choices</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Museum's important natural history collections provide an important role in educating the public, generating awareness of the</li> </ul> |
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|  |  | <p>Tasman region's unique environments, and an important conservation research resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBHT is committed to sustainability and this is embedded in our strategic plan and annual Statement of Intent</li> <li>• The new ARC Facility would economically utilise solar power and showcase this technology for the public</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong resilient and inclusive communities</li> </ul> | (a) Ensure our planning rules and processes consider the risks of developing in areas subject to natural hazards, and encourage resilience, contingency planning, and innovation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current Research Facility is vulnerable to flooding, earthquake and storm damage</li> </ul>   |
|  | (f) Through our activities and services contribute to creating a sense of place and belonging for all ages and cultures  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A connection to heritage and history is vital in creating a sense of regional identity and belonging</li> </ul>   |
|  | (g) Make wider use of libraries, reserves, community facilities and Council events to maximise social opportunities for individuals and communities to connect                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ARC Facility will be a community facility offering open access</li> </ul>   |
|  | (h) Empower our communities to continue and grow the important role they play as volunteers and community groups   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Museum is a key employer of both staff and volunteers in the local heritage sector</li> <li>• We attract innovative and creative people to move to the region to take up employment here, which is of benefit to the local economy</li> </ul>   |

### **Request for financial support of the ARC Facility capital works project**

Following submissions and presentations by the Trust to both Joint Shareholders and Tasman District Council directly, the Joint Shareholders Committee approved the SOI with the storage facility as a priority, and tasked a Joint Shareholders Working Group with looking at the optimum location for a new build. The prime location was identified as a site in Church Street adjacent to the Museum.

The Trust subsequently purchased this site, with Joint Shareholders approval, with funds from their capital reserves.

Nelson City Council has formally committed \$3million in their Long Term Plan towards the ARC project.

Tasman District Council declined a capital funding request from the Trust however, the following text was included in the LTP to support this project with a view to revisiting the funding request in the 2021-2022 Long Term Plan.

*Tasman Bays Heritage Trust are proposing to redevelop the Nelson Provincial Museum to extend the facility and provide a new regional collection facility. Council supports the redevelopment of the Museum and recognises the important value the facility provides to our community ... Council intends to revisit the request for capital funding in the next LTP 2021-2022.*

**We respectfully request that Tasman District Council make provision to contribute \$3million to the ARC Facility capital works project in its 2021 – 31 Long Term Plan.**

The Trust is presenting to the Tasman District Council Strategy & Policy Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss the ARC project with you further.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact me at the below address.

Nāku noa, nā

Lucinda Blackley-Jimson

Chief Executive

Tasman Bays Heritage Trust

For further information please see the following documentation which has been previously submitted to Tasman District Council and Joint Shareholders Committee:

- TBHT Archives, Research, Collections Facility Business Case 2018
- TBHT Archives, Research, Collections Report: Roger Ball, NCC 2019
- Nelson Provincial Museum ARC Facility Budget Options Peer Review: Hay & Associates 2019
- TBHT Project Kōkiri submission 2020

**Nelson Provincial Museum** | 270 Trafalgar Street, Nelson 7010 | Tel: +64 3 548 9588  
**Research Facility** | Isel Park, 13 Hilliard Street, Stoke, Nelson 7011 | Tel: +64 3 547 9740

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*Supported by Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council*