

New Zealand Government

COVER SHEET

7.6 Maori Battalion Museum	Decision/Noting/Discussion
<p>Background & context:</p>	<p>Recommendation(s):</p>
<p>One of the Government’s commitments outlined in the Coalition Agreement between Labour and New Zealand First is to build a museum commemorating the Māori Battalion at Waitangi (the Museum).</p> <p>As the official Māori Battalion website describes it, the 28 (Māori) Battalion was part of the 2nd New Zealand Division, the fighting arm of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2NZE) during the Second World War. Like the other infantry battalions, the Māori Battalion was divided into five companies: four rifle companies and a headquarters company. The Battalion’s four rifle companies (named A, B, C and D) were organised along tribal lines.</p> <p>In total, almost 3600 men served overseas with the Māori Battalion between 1940 and 1945. Of these, 649 were killed in action or died on active service – more than 10 percent of the 6068 New Zealanders who lost their lives serving with 2NZE in the Middle East and Europe. In the words of Lieutenant-General Bernard Freyberg, who commanded the 2nd New Zealand Division, ‘no infantry battalion had a more distinguished record, or saw more fighting, or, alas, had such heavy casualties as the Māori Battalion’.</p> <p>The Government recognises the importance of the Māori Battalion to New Zealand’s sense of itself, and through the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and other departments has played a role in previous efforts to preserve and communicate its history.</p>	<p>We recommend that the IAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note that the project is a coalition agreement between Labour and New Zealand First. b) Note that the Minister for Regional Economic Development has committed to funding the project in full from the Provincial Growth Fund. c) Note that the Waitangi National Trust Board is yet to sign off on the final business case as attached. d) Note the Waitangi National Trust Board is seeking up to \$14.5 million from the Provincial Growth Fund. e) Note we propose the funding be allocated towards the project with the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That letters of support from all 4 companies of the 28 Maori Battalion endorsing a 28 Maori Battalion Museum at Waitangi are received before any construction commences. • A representative from MBIE’s commercial pool with experience in building and quantity surveying is included in the Projects Steering Group for the duration of the Project. • The Waitangi National Trust Board provides confidential updates to MBIE <small>Commercial Inf</small> <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Maintenance of the law</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>	

The purpose of this discussion is to: For information

The Museum aligns with the Regional Economic Development Programme since Northland – Tai Tokerau is identified as a region of need and requires opportunities for growth and development.

The Tai Tokerau Regional Growth Study (2015) identified tourism as a major potential opportunity for development for Northland, specifically the opportunity to increase international and domestic visitor numbers.

The Waitangi Treaty Grounds is the most symbolically important place in New Zealand. As the site where New Zealand's founding document, Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi was first signed in 1840, it is fundamental to New Zealand's cultural identity and its origins as a modern nation state. The Treaty Grounds are of constitutional, cultural, historical and spiritual significance and have been a place of national commemoration since the 1930s. In addition, the Treaty Grounds are now the number 1 tourism attraction in Northland and one of the most important in all of New Zealand. Winner of the 2016 Best Māori Tourism Attraction and 2017 Best Visitor Experience award at the NZ Tourism Awards, the Treaty Grounds are well placed to have a major impact on visitor patterns to the North, including encouraging visitors to stay longer and spend more.

Over the past five years there has been significant development at the Treaty Grounds, including the opening of the multi-award winning Te Kōngahu Museum of Waitangi in 2016. The Waitangi National Trust has identified a number of additional developments on the Treaty Grounds that will further enhance the reputation of the site as a major tourism destination, including the construction of a national museum commemorating the Māori Battalion.

The Trust's strategy is to provide a compelling visitor experience that tells the story of our nation's development and the relationships between iwi Māori and the Crown, and to provide a portal for all New Zealanders, Māori, Pākehā and New Zealanders, to understand their place in the national identity. For international visitors, the Treaty Grounds provides an opportunity to better understand the history of Aotearoa New Zealand and enhance their overall experience in the country.

The Trust is one of the largest employers in the Far North and further enhancement of the visitor experience will result in more visitors and the need for more staff, thereby contributing tangibly to the economic wellbeing of the local community.

Consultation undertaken or implications:

Legal	No	HR	No	Finance	No	MBIE policy	No	Other	Heritage NZ, NZDF, Ngairimu Board, 28 Maori Battalion Scholarship Board
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The independent consultant whom produced the business case presented to key government agencies in April 2018. Agencies included MCH, TPK, the Treasury, MPI and MBIE.

Financial & Staff Implications:

To date, MBIE through the Regional Growth Initiatives Multi-Year Appropriation, and the Provincial Growth Fund has committed \$^{Commercial Inform} towards the business case development, engagement planning, and design and resource consents.

Supporting proposal:	Yes
Appendices:	Yes – Final business case
Sponsor(s):	Labour and New Zealand First coalition agreement
Manager/Author of paper:	Steph Weller (Implementation Manager - Provincial Development Unit) Mark Patterson (Senior Advisor - Provincial Development Unit)