



## **Submission of Civic Trust Auckland**

### **MOTAT Draft Annual Plan**

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### **Introduction**

Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region. The aims of CTA include protection of the city's heritage and the promotion of environmental issues.

1. Our submission relates to the page and paragraph numbers we have included in each of our points.

**(a)** CTA supports MOTAT's goal to create a science, technology and ecological hub in the Western Springs precinct in order to send a clear message that Auckland Council, MOTAT and partners take climate change seriously and are working together to facilitate change. CTA submitted on Auckland's Climate Action Framework that, in our view, Auckland Council needs to move more swiftly to bring about the changes that are needed, so initiatives based around taking climate change seriously are welcomed by us (pg 7, para 5).

**(b)** Sustainability is also one of CTA's values and we support MOTAT's focus on and promotion of technology that is beneficial to the environment. We applaud MOTAT's determination to continue to reduce its impact on the environment, including not burning fossil fuel to run the heritage boilers in the Pumphouse (pg 11, paras 8 & 9).

**(c)** CTA welcomes MOTAT using its resources and expertise to support other institutions (pg 7, para 6). We understand that the review of major cultural heritage institutions (approved by Auckland Council in May 2017) will identify smaller institutions as part of an "other Auckland institutions" group. With the Auckland War Memorial Museum's apparently reduced focus on Auckland's history in particular, we request the re-inclusion of support, in addition to support for the Maritime Museum and the Howick Historical Village, for the

smaller community museums and heritage organisations which are attempting to tell Auckland history.

**(d)** With regard to the development of a SciTech Centre at MOTAT1, which we support (pg 9, para 8), CTA also supports continued recognition of MOTAT's strategy and vision of its traditional role as a heritage transport and technology museum, alongside its science and technical innovation vision.

**(e)** Until organisations have been identified that are able to focus on Auckland history in particular, (as per (c) above), CTA would support greater use by MOTAT of digital technology to present the historical context for its own traditional exhibits.

**(f)** CTA could not find MOTAT's Collection Policy and Collection Development Framework on its website. We encourage MOTAT to make the details of its collection policy more visible, especially with regard to decisions to deaccession objects (pg 11, para 2), as we think that such objects may be of interest to smaller museums, institutions or groups, and we would not like to see them lost or gone to waste.

**(g)** CTA supports the updating and highlighting of the key stories of Aotearoa's aviation (pg 14, para 8). While Jean Batten and Richard Pearse are known by many, there are also many other New Zealanders with remarkable accomplishments in the field of aviation.

**(h)** CTA supports MOTAT's aim to become carbon neutral and to "promote and use technology that reduces our impact on the environment and inspires the target audience to do the same" (pg 32, paras 3 & 4).

**2.** We seek the following amendments to the Draft Plan:

**(a)** The re-inclusion of support for the smaller community museums and heritage institutions, supported by a budget provision (see 4 below). While changes to the sector have been signalled, until that happens, our submission is provided for by section 12(g) of the MOTAT Act (2000).

**(b)** Continued recognition in MOTAT's strategy and vision of its traditional role as a heritage transport and technology museum, but with additional focus on the Auckland historical context of those aspects.

**(c)** The inclusion of MOTAT's Collection Policy and Collection Development Framework on its website.

**3.** Our submission is that:

**(a)** Auckland Council plans have diminished heritage focus and provided very limited funding support. There being no Museum of Auckland, there is a critical need for a community refocus on the heritage and social history of our

city in particular. Support for the smaller community museums and heritage institutions is in line with MOTAT using its resources and expertise to support other institutions, to engage with likeminded organisations that have similar objectives to MOTAT, and to work collaboratively with likeminded institutions to develop public exhibitions, education and outreach programmes that benefit the community, including schools.

**(b)** MOTAT's traditional role is as a heritage transport and technology museum and as such has a role in presenting the history of Auckland.

**(c)** Making MOTAT's Collection Policy and Collection Development Framework available on its website means that this information available to the public and supports the statement in the introduction to "About Us" on the this website, which reads, "We have an extensive collection of items and possess very rare treasures which are of national significance to the people of New Zealand," as well as supporting the reference to this framework in the MOTAT annual plan.

**4.** Funding of our proposal at **1(c)** and **2(a)** might usefully be set at \$300,000.

Date of submission: 22 January, 2020

Signature:



A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, which reads "Audrey van Ryn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey van Ryn  
Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland