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3 March 2025

Response to ARANZ, PHANZA and NZHA

E ngā Tumu o ngā ohu nei, tēna koutou,

He mea hanga tō māua nei whare, ko Papatūānuku te paparahi, ko Ranginui e tirohia nei, ka mihi.

Thank you for your open letter received on 27 February 2025, raising collective concerns on the change proposal between Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa National Library and Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Archives New Zealand.

We always welcome, and appreciate, the connections, relationships and discussions we have with ARANZ, PHANZA and NZHA, and remain committed to open and constructive discussions. We all are wanting to achieve the same goals.

Both Te Pouhuaki and Poumanaaki believe a new, collaborative structure for the National Library and Archives New Zealand will best meet the needs of the public and its staff and this will be reflected in the final decisions that will be announced in late March.

Following extensive consultation with Library and Archives staff late last year, the functional design model has changed from what ARANZ, PHANZA and NZHA have seen. As a result of the constructive feedback from staff, our thinking better reflects their thinking and insights based on the expertise they have in their respective areas.

We acknowledge that change processes are very difficult for kaimahi, and that there is a period of uncertainty and transition as a new structure and way of working bed in.

We are focused on the opportunities and benefits closer collaboration will bring, with improved services and accessibility to the taonga we care for on behalf of the country, particularly as we prepare to move into the new archival building that connects to the National Library in Wellington from mid-2025.

The independent functions of Archives New Zealand and the National Library will remain, as will the respective Acts they administer or work within. The new design retains the specific expertise and knowledge base each institution has, and we agree with ARANZ, PHANZA and NZHA that 'convergence through physical proximity, shared services, or integrated leadership will not erase these distinctions'.

We would like to alleviate your concerns on the erosion of Poumanaaki independence, by reminding you of the recent proposed changes to the Public Records Act announced by the government, which will strengthen the Chief Archivist's recordkeeping powers.



The opportunities of closer collaboration and their benefits were identified in 2018 when the National Archival and Library Institutions Ministerial Group (NALI) sought views from the archival and library sectors to better understand their interests and concerns. This proposed change seeks to maximise those opportunities to best meet the needs of customers and staff.

This work is a progression of that thinking. It does have an acknowledged fiscal component to it and reflects the current economic realities within the public and private sectors.

We are confident that the proposed design will build on institutional knowledge, enhance reputation and lift staff morale with new ways of working.

Thank you, once again, for sharing your thoughts in a considered way, it is appreciated. We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with you as the new structure takes shape and rolls into action.

Ahakoia ngā piki me ngā heke, hikoia te whetū, hikoia te marama, tēnā rā koutou katoa.

Rachel Esson | Te Pouhuaki National Librarian
Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa | National
Library of New Zealand

Anahera Morehu | Poumanaaki Chief Archivist
Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga
Archives New Zealand