

# Gore District Historical Society Inc.

26 June 2025

To: Paul Goldsmith, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage  
[P.Goldsmith@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:P.Goldsmith@ministers.govt.nz)

Leauanae Laulu Mac Leauanae, Secretary for Culture and Heritage and  
Chief Executive (via EA: [Bridie.Cooper@mch.govt.nz](mailto:Bridie.Cooper@mch.govt.nz))

Erica Stanford, Minister of Education, [E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz)

Joseph Mooney, MP – Southland, [Joseph.Mooney@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Joseph.Mooney@parliament.govt.nz)

We wish to add our voice to the alarm and opposition to the proposed restructuring of MCH. These changes would demonstrably threaten access to historical scholarship, research resources and negatively impact public education. Cultural heritage work is important to the fabric of our collective society – Who? Where? Why? When? What? How?

As a Historical Society we are currently supporting the redevelopment of our local Museum. We underline the statement that ‘the digital platforms created and maintained by Te Hua’s operational team are irreplaceable national assets’. Museums are already facing immense funding challenges and having the support of credible historical knowledge is one area that is critical to our being able to tell our stories confidently. These are stories shared with our local, national and international communities. In this age of misinformation and disinformation, accuracy is important.

Local museums are places that both students and educators come to, to be pointed in the right direction, to support their learning and to get it right for their students. Being able to direct them to high quality resources is important. Equally it is vital to understand that ‘public education’ extends beyond the years of schooling and it is equally important to get it right and provide for those who come to historical enquiry later, as is often the case.

Access via NZHistory.net to the signed Suffrage petitions is an example of significant and highly referenced materials that has not only national significance but also international. Resources such as this are increasingly important as funding support for digitisation of further historical resource is reduced and discontinued. There is so much work that has

been done that it seems a false economics to disestablish the resources and those that work so diligently to support them.

Ka mua, ka muri. Experience shows that we can not walk confidently into the future without knowing our past. Removing the supports that MCH provides nationally to provide knowledge is shortsighted.

We ask that you do not cause irreparable damage to essential cultural infrastructure. Our history deserves better.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Herring', written in a cursive style.

S Herring

Chair

Gore District Historical Society Inc.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.