

Before an Independent Commissioner of Wellington City Council

Under the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of a resource consent application for the Future Accommodation Strategy to develop the western portion of the site at 1 Molesworth Street, Wellington

**EVIDENCE OF DAVID ALEXANDER WILLS ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT IN
SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR RESOURCE CONSENT**

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE – MANAGER BUILDINGS PROJECT OFFICE

15 May 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 My full name is David Alexander Wills. I am the Manager of the Parliamentary Service Project Management Office and the Project Director for the Parliament Future Accommodation Project (**Project**). My remit within Parliamentary Service is to lead the Buildings Project Management Office and perform the duties of the Project Director the Project.

1.2 I am authorised by the Applicant, Parliamentary Service, on behalf of His Majesty the King, to give this statement of evidence on its behalf.

2. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

2.1 I have a New Zealand Certificate in Engineering (Industrial Measurement and Controls).

2.2 I have 30 years' experience in leading Facilities Management teams, including leading both building and process manufacturing projects. My experience includes over 7 years at the Parliamentary Service in the roles of Manager Asset Management and Maintenance and Manager Buildings Project Management Office.

2.3 I have been the project lead and director of the Future Accommodation Strategy at Parliamentary Service since the Project was reinstated in 2020. I was also involved in the Project's predecessor from 2016-2017 in an advisory role.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1 I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses outlined in the Environment Court's Practice Note (2023) (**Code**) and have complied with it in preparing this evidence. I also agree to follow the Code when presenting evidence to the Independent Hearing Commissioner. I confirm that the issues addressed in this brief of evidence are within my area of expertise,

except where I state that I rely upon the evidence of other expert witnesses. I also confirm that I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from my opinions.

4. SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

4.1 My evidence summarises consultation with Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika in relation to the parts of the Future Accommodation Strategy for which resource consent is sought.

5. SUMMARY OF IWI CONSULTATION AND OUTCOMES

5.1 One of the Objectives of the Project, as set out in the Speaker's statement filed with the application, is for all Parliamentary functions to be accommodated on the Parliamentary Precinct in a way that achieves a Cultural Partnership – and recognises cultural values and opportunities for co-design elements, with early engagement and an inclusive design process.

5.2 To achieve this, the Project has sought to incorporate and sympathetically integrate the expression of the cultural and site-specific narrative, which has been informed by mana whenua as partners in the co-design process. The Parliamentary Service and the architectural design team recognize the importance of embracing the cultural narrative of mana whenua, and working with artists and designers to give expression to that narrative.

The co-design process

5.3 The cultural narrative for the Project has been developed and led by Kura Moeahu as Cultural Advisor and more latterly with Len Hetet as Cultural Design Lead. There has been an evolving process of establishing and expressing an overall cultural narrative and a specific project narrative. The project architectural leader, Michael Davis, outlines in further detail in his

evidence the progression and results of the co-design process that has evolved from our partnership with mana whenua.

- 5.4** From the Project's conception in 2015, Kura Moeahu has been involved in both his role at the time as Cultural Advisor to Parliamentary Service and now as the lead for Te Ati Awa, on behalf of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika as the mana whenua lead. Further, during the co-design process, Len Hetet, as Cultural Design lead has been representing mana whenua, working closely and regularly with Studio Pacific.
- 5.5** In 2015, the original concept from mana whenua of the Project envisaged Parliament as an octopus, with the Matangireia Room (former Māori Affairs Committee Room) as its eye, with a number of arms extending from it. The proposed MUS building was seen as a new arm. This concept has evolved into the cultural design narrative and co-design of today. This is covered in more detail in Mr Davis's evidence.
- 5.6** As one example of the cultural design work, the Waipiro stream is intended to be acknowledged by the location of decorative markers set into the ground floor, to indicate a notional route of the stream.

Broader outcomes

- 5.7** In addition to the co-design process, Kura has been kept informed of overall Project direction and strategy throughout, and has indicated that this is being relayed back to iwi through representatives such as iwi chairs.
- 5.8** As the Project moves into the procurement and construction phase, Parliamentary Service is collaborating with Kura to ensure that the broader outcome objectives align with iwi objectives. One example of the broader outcomes for the Project is the selection of two Rāranga staff who will be selected to complete their apprenticeship on the Project. Rāranga is a partnership between construction company, LT McGuinness, and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira based in the Wellington region.

5.9 It is important to the Parliamentary Service and the Project that mana whenua are able to express their cultural narrative in the buildings and the Precinct's landscape. This Project is a large step forward for achieving this at the rear of Parliament. However, this goal is not limited to the current Project but to all aspects of the Parliament grounds.

5.10 For example, post the occupation of Parliament grounds in early 2022, Parliamentary Service has worked in partnership with mana whenua to better reflect mana whenua culturally on the front facing grounds. Significant cultural elements are also being added to the front forecourt of Parliament and to the main entrance into the Executive Wing. The work includes Mouri markers to identify the main gathering points on the precinct. This concept will be expanded into the wayfinding over the whole of the Precinct.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 In conclusion, partnership with mana whenua has been and continues to be one of the key objectives for the Project. Parliamentary Service is committed to ensuring that mana whenua values are represented on any development at the Precinct, including in this Project, and we have established work streams to seek to ensure that this is achieved.

David Alexander Wills

15 May 2023