

Project summary

Sarjeant Gallery Relocation

The relocation forms part of a larger redevelopment project for which a fundraising strategy, including application to the Ministry for Culture & Heritage's Regional Museums Policy for Capital Projects, is underway. The final redevelopment will see the original Gallery strengthened, together with new storage and exhibition facilities constructed to the north of the original building.

The relocation project is nevertheless necessary whatever the outcome of the larger redevelopment project, as the earthquake-prone nature of the Sarjeant Gallery, the safety of staff, the public and the collections require action to be taken.

It is proposed to relocate the entire Gallery operation from the existing earthquake-prone (5% NBS rating) 1919 building to a temporary location at 38 Taupo Quay, Wanganui. The developer of the site proposes to fit out the building (and part of the adjoining building which they own) to accommodate the Gallery's public operation (exhibitions and education), staff and collections and Council currently has a conditional Agreement to Lease. It is expected that agreement over the lease will be completed by Christmas 2012.

The broad outline of the proposed lease agreement is that the developer will provide a strengthened, serviced shell and Council will carry out the works required to fit out the interior of the premises. The total project cost is estimated at \$2,678,000 over five years, including additional operating costs. The cost of the collection transition element of the project is estimated at \$844,622. This application is for \$496,100 towards the transition costs. **No funds are sought in relation to the construction and fit out of the temporary location.** All other costs will be covered by Wanganui District Council.

Council is committed to mitigating the risk to staff, public and collections posed by the earthquake prone nature of the original Gallery building. Council established a special rates levy for dealing with Council's earthquake prone buildings of which, in a city as old as Wanganui, there are a substantial number. Costs borne by Council in the relocation project include the fit-out of the Gallery store, work areas, offices, exhibition galleries, education space and front of house area; rent for a period of five years (or more if other work is delayed); and all the additional costs of transition (see budget breakdown in Appendix 2: Transition Plan) beyond those for which this application seeks support. The total council contribution to this relocation project will be \$1.996 million.