

Our Ref DOIA 24-220

22 March 2024

[s 9(2)(a)]

Wellington Office

Radio New Zealand House

155 The Terrace

PO Box 5501

Wellington 6145

New Zealand

T 0800 665 463

F +64 4 472 2244

E customersupport@linz.govt.nz

W www.linz.govt.nz

Tēnā koe [s 9(2)]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 27 February 2024 for:

- a) *a list of the work undertaken on the ex-Defence land on Watts Peninsula pursuant to the 2019 budget statement assigning LINZ \$4 million and 4 years to undertake remedial work on this land prior to handing it over to DOC;*
- b) *a list of work remaining to be done before the transfer can take place;*
- c) *the amount of the \$4 million currently unspent.*

As you may be aware, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is working closely with the Department of Conservation (DOC), Te Arawhiti, and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) on future arrangements for the site. As the land is within the rohe of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui) it's important their aspirations for the area are properly considered.

This iwi-Crown working group is considering options that will ensure the historical, cultural and ecological significance of the land is recognised and protected. Advice on agreed options will be provided to Ministers for consideration in the coming months.

While these future arrangements are being considered, LINZ is focused on managing the land on behalf of the Crown.

Work undertaken

LINZ has completed the following works at Watts Peninsula:

- Site hazard assessments, including a structural assessment, a geo-hazard assessment, a hazardous building materials survey, an arboricultural safety assessment, and a ground contamination assessment.
- An archaeological assessment.

- A Heritage Values Assessment detailing the value of heritage and cultural features across the entire site.
- Seismic assessments of structures to guide future repairs and management.
- Review of a cultural safety audit provided by Taranaki Whānui.
- Removed dangerous trees, overhanging dead wood, large stacks of logs and site maintenance activities.
- Repaired Mag Road to improve safety and stormwater runoff, with further repairs planned following storm damage in June and August 2022.
- 3D laser scanning of Fort Ballance to inform seismic assessments and create a record.
- Designed retaining wall where a slip occurred to protect the track to Massey Memorial from further erosion.

Links to a number of the documents listed above are available on the [LINZ website](#).

Work planned

LINZ has the following hazard management work planned:

- Clearing overgrown vegetation around structures to enable further inspections and access for asbestos removal works.
- Removing hazardous materials including asbestos from Mag Road WWII-era magazine buildings.
- Undertaking access track and stormwater improvement works on Mag Road.
- Building a retaining wall to manage slip risks on the Massey Track.

Funding

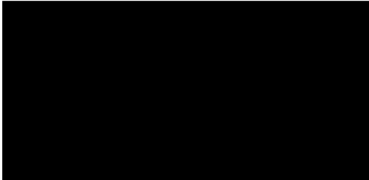
Through Budget 2019, LINZ received \$4 million in funding to maintain and improve the safety of the land. Approximately \$1.7 million is available to be used for the planned works listed above.

If you wish to discuss this decision, please contact ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 19 April 2024.

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera
Head of Crown Property

Proactively Released