



31 May 2021

## Submission to the Ministry of Education Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga on: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories in the New Zealand Curriculum

### Introduction

ICOMOS New Zealand/Te Mana o Nga Pouwhenua o Te Ao, established in 1987, is a professional organisation for the support and advancement of individuals and organisations engaged in the conservation of places of cultural heritage value in New Zealand. It is linked to the international ICOMOS non-governmental organisation (founded in 1965) of heritage professionals dedicated to the conservation of the world's historic monuments and sites.

Members of ICOMOS New Zealand cover a wide range of professional disciplines concerned with the management and protection of cultural heritage property and include archaeologists, conservation architects, building archaeologists, landscape architects, planners, historians, heritage property managers and heritage administrators. They include staff from government agencies, NGOs, local authorities and the private sector, independent consultants, and people who contribute to heritage conservation in a voluntary capacity.

The organisation recognises that Aotearoa New Zealand retains a unique assemblage of places of cultural heritage value (both tangible and intangible) relating to its indigenous and more recent peoples. The ICOMOS New Zealand Charter 2010/ Te Tūtohunga ICOMOS o Aotearoa 2010 (in English and Māori), covering the purpose, principles, practice, and processes of conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand, aims to guide the way in which we ensure that places of cultural heritage value endure to provide touchstones to our histories for present and future generations.

### Submission:

ICOMOS New Zealand firmly supports the sentiment that 'To shape New Zealand's future, let's start with the past'. Teaching Aotearoa New Zealand's histories in all schools and kura will grow students' knowledge and expand their perspectives of the many and diverse layers of the past and engender insight and comprehension of how the past has shaped our cultures and our identities.

ICOMOS New Zealand endorses the direction to implement and strengthen bicultural, and multi-cultural histories that form part of the unique fabric of New Zealand. It is important in ensuring that the multiple viewpoints and perspectives that exist in our past are presented and absorbed in order to foster understanding and appreciation in our current and future society. As part of appreciating the continuum of history and the achievements of tangata whenua, ICOMOS NZ also supports the

teaching of histories relating to iwi/hapū between first arrival and 19th century colonisation. The increased focus on local histories is also supported as it will help build connections with the places we inhabit, which will potentially broaden their meaning to us and lead to greater esteem for them.

Aotearoa New Zealand is rich in heritage places and artifacts that form tangible links to the narratives outlined for inclusion in the curriculum. ICOMOS NZ encourages the early experience and appreciation of these taonga as part of the learning process, as they present the opportunity to reveal and augment the stories of the past. Early engagement, contact and experience with objects and places related to our histories has the potential to cultivate respect and care for heritage into the future.

Through broader, wider and more diverse teaching of histories, the potential to generate stronger engagement and interest in the multitude of activities and disciplines connected to the wide scope of history opens the door to pursue further later study and work in the field. It can lay the foundation for careers in heritage be it as a historian; pouārahi or Māori heritage advisor; material or artifact conservator and craft persons; heritage architect, landscape architect, planner, surveyor or engineer; archaeologist; or heritage property manager or administrator. There are a multitude of vocations available to those whose interest is ignited by a sparked interest in histories.

ICOMOS New Zealand strongly lends its support for Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories in the New Zealand Curriculum proposal.

ICOMOS New Zealand  
Education and Professional Development Committee