

Kōrero mai | Let's talk

Submission form Results

Mar 26, 2026 - May 01, 2026

Project: Proposal to grant easement over Cracroft Reserve

Form: Submission form

Tool Type: Form

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Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Ben Lagan

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

Great idea to have a memorial at Cracroft but I can't help but feel the memorial which honours people who crashed into Erebus (a snowy, ice covered mountain) is facing the wrong way. The concept view indicates the 'view' facing East towards the Ocean, not the beautiful Southern Alps. Surely the connection to the incident and the reflections people may have while at the memorial would be more relevant facing West towards the mountains. I think the community board should consider the direction of the memorial viewing platform as it will impact the easement location before they consider its approval

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice On behalf of a recognised organisation or business

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Q3 Your role

Short Text Director, Portfolio Delivery

Q4 Full name

Short Text Jeff Gibson

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

Cracroft Reserve in Christchurch was chosen as the preferred site for the National Erebus Memorial in November 2025. It was selected based on criteria developed with Erebus families and members of Operation Overdue (Erebus whānau) and went through a robust process supported by Christchurch City Council and mana whenua. Following this decision, a significant amount of research, planning and analysis went into determining where best to locate the memorial within the Reserve, resulting in the preferred placement under consideration for the granting of the easement. The analysis considered Cracroft Reserve's ecology, topography, cultural and historical context, mana whenua considerations, its aspect, slope, geology, outlook, and community. It also considered existing structures around the site – the Sign of the Takaha building, the Scout Hall, the rocky outcrops, and the water tanks. We believe this placement allows for the memorial to have its own space while complementing existing uses and spaces.

This placement is on the most elevated site and has distinct views towards the north and east coast, and views south towards the Port Hills. The site has the best opportunity for a unique and beautiful view. Following the preferred site announcement and sharing of early design work, we have received very positive feedback about Cracroft Reserve from Erebus whānau.

The Ministry is confident that the assessment, combined with our own experience of visiting the site on several occasions, along with the warm welcome from Christchurch, make this placement for the National Erebus Memorial at Cracroft Reserve ideal.

We cannot overstate enough our gratitude to Christchurch and its people. We know that 65% of Erebus whānau support the memorial being in Christchurch. Over the last 18 months, Ministry officials have worked closely with Christchurch City Council to identify the best possible site for the memorial. Along with Erebus whānau, the Ministry has been heartened by the depth of understanding, the warmth of welcome from Christchurch, and the city's strong connection with Erebus and Antarctica. Thank you for your consideration of our submission alongside others, and I would welcome the opportunity to answer questions.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice Yes

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text William Derek Marshall Crombie

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

This memorial is a national recognition of the life of almost 300 people who died as a result of an accident they could not have expected. The reserve would have been one of the last pieces of land the aircraft transited before its fatal trip so it is very appropriate to locate the memorial here.
I fully support the location.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Martin Muller

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

The memorial decision has dragged on for far too long, with Auckland poliitcs preventing the build. This Port Hills location has outstanding merit. It has a tangible link to the airport below, and to the city: the gateway to the Antarctic. And some of the passengers were to deplane in Christchurch. I fully support this effort.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Dan Moloney

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice No

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice No

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

I have provided comprehensive reasons to Jake McLellan, Councilor for Central Ward, Christchurch City Council. I would like to provide these written reasons to you.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice Yes

Refer pages 18-22 for additional information

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Rev Dr Richard Waugh QSM

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

As the instigator of the National Erebus Memorial Project from 2016 (when I resided in Auckland) I have long standing commitment and interest in the memorial. After failed location attempts in Auckland and it seems no prospect of the memorial being in Auckland, Christchurch is certainly the other logical site for many reasons, as I outlined to the mayor and councillors when I spoke to them on this matter in August 2025. I am available to concisely share with the community board members the pastoral reasons why the national memorial is important and why Cracroft Reserve is very suitable.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice Yes

Response No:
7

Contribution ID: 43014

Date Submitted: Apr 23, 2026, 08:13 AM

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Grant N Gillespie

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

Excellent and fitting addition to under-utilised reserve. Overdue memorial for families in a beautiful location and another attraction for Christchurch.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Benjamin Matthew Huston

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

Think it's fantastic idea for a worthy cause

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Dorothy Dickie

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Maureen McCloy

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

I live in the area and support the proposal. I think it is a pity that nowhere in Auckland could be found for the families. However, if this is the best possible location then I am happy to host the memorial in "my back yard".

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice On behalf of a recognised organisation or business

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text Friends of Cracroft Reserve

Q3 Your role

Short Text Co-ordinator

Q4 Full name

Short Text Dugald Quentin McDonald

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

Friends of Cracroft Reserve are a group of community members who live in the vicinity of the reserve and have for several years been gathering regularly to perform predator and weed control and more recently planting. We currently have a mailing list of 40 people and 99 following the Facebook page. Our regular volunteers have been pleased to have the chance to meet with Tessa from the engagement team and hear about the plans for the memorial. The following represents a consensus view:

- We generally support the location of the proposed memorial.
- Opportunities to enhance the reserve in the wider area, especially removal of exotic tree species should be included.
- Any new planting should be consistent with the biodiversity objectives identified in the draft reserve plan
- Where possible, opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the planting and maintenance should be identified.
- It would be helpful if during construction we can be notified of closed off tracks or other areas so we can plan our activities.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice Yes

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Charlotte Sullivan

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

This is decades overdue and as a local resident and a primary schooler at the time of the disaster, I feel proud that we will host this memorial site.
And that we can welcome family of the victims and other visitors to learn about this sad part of our history.
Auckland should be ashamed.
Bring it on Christchurch!

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Gary Lloyd HARROW

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

I also support the erection of a sign advertising the memorial near the gates/toilets

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Tom Brownless

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

I think this seems like a wonderful way to honour those who died in such a tragedy, it would really add to the mana of this park and area

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Michael Anthony Hurrell

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

This is an important memorial and the impacts of construction will be manageable and temporary.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Q1 Are you responding:

Multi Choice As an individual

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q3 Your role

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text Sonia Bell

Q8 Do you support the proposal to grant an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q9 Do you support the proposal to grant a License to Occupy in Cracroft Reserve?

Multi Choice Yes

Q10 Is there anything you think the Community Board needs to consider in granting an easement in Cracroft Reserve?

Long Text

Ideal position to view and reminisce of how fortunate we are today.

Q11 Would you like to speak to the Community Board about your submission?

Multi Choice No

Refer submission 43023

27 Johnstone Street,
Point Chevalier,
Auckland 1022,
18.03.26.

Ministry of Culture and Heritage,
131 Lambton Quay,
Wellington 6011,
New Zealand.

Sent by email to: erebus@mch.govt.nz

RE: NATIONAL EREBUS MEMORIAL - FIRST CONCEPT DESIGN - CRACROFT RESERVE, CHRISTCHURCH

As requested, my initial, preliminary and brief comments on the National Erebus Memorial (the first concept design) for Cracroft Reserve in Christchurch provided by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on 12th of March 2026 are as follows.

- The best possible location for the memorial within Cracroft Reserve has not been selected. The best possible location is site 3 on the flat contour area to the northeast of the viewing water tank and located between the Cashmere Scout Group building. This area was previously presented by the Ministry as the potential location within the site. There is a 150 diameter watermain that runs through this area, and this flat area is used by the Scout Group for activities. This area is in a separate legal lot/title and along with the fact that it would be looked down on from the viewing platform, I assume that this may be the reason why this area was not selected.
- The view from site 1 is over the busy Hackthorne Road, residential housing, elevated contour in the distance with more residential housing and then out to sea. This is on the condition that the current vegetation is kept at a low level. There is no view out to the Southern Alps that some spruiker types have keenly touted and anticipated. Yes, a view from site 1 but to describe it as beautiful is an exaggeration.
- The proposed memorial location is next to the busy path that leads up to the water tank lookout.
- All sightseers, visitors and dog walkers will be initially drawn to the memorial rather than the viewing platform so there will be no privacy, and the memorial will not meet its intended use with respect to Erebus Family. This will be a memorial for the public.
- The original design concept has been debased from its original, pure and authentic form into a lower quality version. In short 'inferior'. 'Sky Song' design was selected for a particular site, environment and location and this is certainly not that site.
- The concept design is a continuation of the backward steps on the original 'Sky Song' Memorial design. No disrespect to the designers, they have their brief and they are doing their best.
- The smaller scale is not acceptable, and the Ministry continue to take backwards steps from the original quality design and location at Dove Myer Robinson Park in Auckland.

Furthermore, I

- do not support the memorial being located at Cracroft Reserve or the Avon River site in Christchurch. This was made jointly clear by those in our group at the last Hui and conveniently ignored by the ministry.
- do support the National Erebus Memorial and reiterate that it is of paramount importance that the loss of 257 lives is remembered and that all those directly affected are not treated with further belittlement and disrespect to which they have been subjected.
- do not appreciate the Ministry tactically wearing down Erebus Family members to the point that Erebus Family have given up the possibility of being able to pay their respects to those they have lost with a sub-par memorial and inaccessible, inferior location. Erebus Family need to protect their mental health first and foremost.
- have been in communication the Christchurch City Council Mayor's office and attach a letter in response to those communications.
- have independently assessed the sites proposed in Christchurch for the memorial and attach my assessment for Cracroft Reserve. Please refer to this assessment for additional comments. I note that I have previously assessed sites in Christchurch and are familiar with this suburb.
- am currently engaged in an upgrade for Benmore Power Station on the Waitaki River in North Otago/Canterbury region because there's a 75% chance of a significant earthquake along the Alpine Fault in the next 50 years. Take note of the inevitable seismic activity.
- see that it is absolutely clear that New Zealanders have not welcomed the National Erebus Memorial. Apart from being totally insulting and disrespectful it can only be assumed that there will be future repercussions. The reason for that is because there remains unfinished business with respect to the actual accident and aftermath itself and this saga highlights the need for this to be dealt with.

A copy of this email will be sent to Studio Pacific Architecture.

Yours Sincerely

Dan Moloney

-

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



25 MAR 2026

Dan Moloney
danieljmolone@gmail.com

Dear Dan

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 March 2026 outlining your perspective and experience throughout the development of the National Erebus Memorial. I acknowledge your significant personal connection to this work, and the contribution you have made as a member of the original design panel. I appreciate the dedication you have shown to this project over many years.

You note your concerns regarding the suitability of Auckland as the location of the National Erebus Memorial. Following extensive assessment over many years, the Christchurch site at Cracroft Reserve has been confirmed.

While I appreciate your concerns about accessibility and travel for families, there is not one single location that would suit all families. I have been advised that the Ministry for Culture and Heritage is considering options to support people traveling to Christchurch, including around the opening of the memorial, to ensure they are able to attend.

I have also been advised that the Ministry has kept Air New Zealand closely informed as a key stakeholder throughout this project. This has included regular communication with former and current chief executives of Air New Zealand, as well as senior safety representatives. Air New Zealand identified its Chief Safety Officer as the appropriate point of contact for the Ministry, and I am advised that Officials have consistently offered updates, briefings, and meetings to the airline over the course of the project.

Thank you again for writing, and for your continued commitment to this important project.

Yours sincerely


Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

25 August 2025

03 941 8999

53 Hereford Street
Christchurch 8013

PO Box 73013
Christchurch 8154

ccc.govt.nz

Dan Moloney
27 Johnstone Street
Point Chevalier
Auckland 1022

By email: danieljmolone@gmail.com

Dear Dan,

Erebus National Memorial

Thank you for your detailed and heartfelt letter regarding the proposed offer of Cracroft Reserve in Christchurch as a potential site for the National Erebus Memorial. I want to acknowledge the depth of your connection to the Erebus story and the care with which you have expressed your concerns. I apologise for not responding to your letter prior to the matter going before Council last week, but I had been called upon for jury service.

Your reflections, both personal and professional, are deeply valued. The legacy of Flight TE901 and the enduring impact of the Erebus tragedy remain profoundly important to our nation and to Christchurch. We recognise that the journey toward a national memorial has been long and painful, and that many families continue to hold a strong preference for Auckland as the memorial's location. That preference is understood and respected.

The Council's offer of two potential sites in Christchurch, Cracroft Reserve and the Ōtākaro–Avon Riverbank, is not intended to replace Auckland, but to support the Ministry for Culture and Heritage in progressing a stalled national project. It is a gesture made with care and compassion, reflecting the city's strong Antarctic heritage, its culture of remembrance, and its history of responding to tragedy with dignity and manaakitanga.

Your concerns about accessibility, seismic risk, and the alignment with earlier family survey feedback were noted and shared with the Mayor prior to my presentation of the report to the Council. Cracroft Reserve was identified through a collaborative process involving Council, mana whenua, and the Ministry and was led by a memorial design expert from Lincoln University. It was recommended for its experiential qualities, amenity, accessibility, and cultural support.

After careful consideration, the Council resolved to offer both Cracroft Reserve and the Ōtākaro–Avon Riverbank as potential sites. This dual-site offer reflects our commitment to supporting the Ministry and families with flexibility and respect and to enabling a thoughtful and inclusive decision-making process.

The Council's offer remains open for 12 months to allow further engagement, site visits, and dialogue, recognising the abbreviated consultation process that has taken place so far.

It is very much our hope that the memorial will be built in Auckland. Wherever it is ultimately placed, please know that you, your fellow family members, and the members of Operation Overdue, will always be warmly welcomed in Christchurch.

Warm regards,



Duncan Sandeman
Manager

Office of the Mayor and Civic Services
Christchurch City Council