

NEW ZEALAND MARINE SCIENCES SOCIETY

TE HUNGA MĀTAI MOANA O AOTEAROA



7 August 2018

Evan Williams
Chair
Te Papa Museum Board
Te Papa
55 Cable St. Te Aro.

Re: Concerns of the NZMSS over potential impacts of restructuring on natural environment collections

Dear Evan,

The New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS) is a professional society affiliated to the Royal Society of New Zealand with a membership of approximately 200 New Zealand's marine scientists. We are a non-profit organisation that provides access to, and within, the marine science community, and we identify emerging issues through annual conferences, annual reviews, a listserv and a website www.nzmss.org.nz. We speak for members of the society and we engage with other scientific societies as appropriate.

The society is concerned about Te Papa's proposal to reduce the current number of collection managers and conservators. We note that a restructure in 2012 resulted in a significant reduction of those staff roles and the society is of the view that further reductions will be detrimental to the appropriate care and stewardship of the natural environment collections that Te Papa is responsible for.

In 2013, NZMSS wrote to you concerning the proposal by Te Papa to relocate its natural environment collections (refer to a copy of our submission, attached). We reiterate our concerns that there is appropriate access to and stewardship of these collections.

We support the recent decision to carry out an independent review into the care of Te Papa's natural history collections by global museum collection specialists. We ask that the findings of the independent review be made public and that input is sought from New Zealander's and organisations such as NZMSS.

We also urge that there be no further reduction to the current number of natural environment collection managers and conservators, given that there have already been significant reductions of these staff.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dr Nick Shears.

Dr Nick Shears
President
New Zealand Marine Sciences Society
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