



Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision Briefing to the Incoming Minister – October 2017

SUMMARY

- Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision is a Charitable Trust and New Zealand's only **national** audiovisual archive
- While caring for taonga is important, we also make a valuable and tangible contribution to **national identity, social cohesion, and economic development** – particularly in the film and broadcasting sector
- Originally established in 1981 as the **New Zealand Film Archive**, the responsibilities and collections Ngā Taonga is responsible for were significantly increased when Government decided to transfer custodianship of the **RNZ Sound Archives** and **TVNZ Television Archives** in 2012 and 2014 respectively (see Table 1)
- These transfers were intended to **address fragmentation of the audiovisual archiving sector** and as a consequence, the funding provided per item has decreased from \$15.00 to \$8.70 (see Table 2)
- Clearly, policy-makers intended that **economies of scale** would be realised as a consequence of the consolidation, however the requisite investment in infrastructure and corporate support needed by a medium-sized organisation was never provided
- Ngā Taonga has carried out a **modernisation investment programme, restructured**, and undertaken **substantial fundraising efforts** to realise these opportunities for economies of scale, but there is still a lot to be done
- A number of **significant issues remain**, particularly in the areas of: collection storage and accommodation; digitisation of the Betacam video tape collection, digital access infrastructure and outreach (see Table 3)
- There are a **number of choices available**:
 - Maintain existing funding, with reduced accountabilities
 - Partial investment and maintain existing service delivery levels
 - Investment in infrastructure that will allow Ngā Taonga to truly become a **sustainable national audiovisual archive**

Table 1: Evolution of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

Year	Organisation	Role/Accountability changes	Asset/resource changes	Archive size and complexity
1981	NZ Film Archive	Archive service provision for NZ Film Commission, NZ On Air, and Te Māngai Pāho; constrained public access; NZ Film Archive designated as an Official Repository	From 1 FTE to approximately 50 FTE by 2010; purchase/sale of Cable Street and purchase of Taranaki Street premises for \$2.5 million in 2002.	
2011			Northpoint Vault: Invested \$834,000 in purpose-built collection storage in Plimmerton (including \$152,000 from fundraising)	265,000 items under management
2012	RNZ sound archive* absorbed	Broadcast Library provision to RNZ; New requirements under the Public Records Act; Need to digitise the collections for preservation and use by RNZ; Public access to the sound archive	10 FTE increase ; Additional Auckland collection storage site; Christchurch site (including EQ issues) to resolve; \$1.0 million one-off received to digitise sound collection; ongoing funding of \$0.79 million per annum for Broadcast Library provision and collection management	Additional 110,000 items ; Skill sets and technology required for sound archive and formats required; Capacity for public access required
2013			Whitireia Nitrate Vault: Invested \$366,000 in purpose-built collection storage in Titahi Bay (including \$231,000 from fundraising)	
2014	TVNZ archive* absorbed	Broadcast Library provision to TVNZ; Need to digitise the collection for preservation and use by TVNZ and wider user groups; Public Records in the collection now more than 50% of total collections under management	11 FTE increase ; Additional Avalon site to manage; Additional \$2.0 million per annum funding (although activity-based costing was not conducted); significant public access expectations created	Additional 435,000 items ; Skill sets and technology required for additional formats
2014	Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision established	Explicit roles for acquisition and access, growing needs and expectations from funders and stakeholders, and the potential for economies of scale (although requiring investment to deliver)	61.6 FTE ; Once ongoing funding commenced, annual budget is \$7 million	Total of >800,000 items under management ; Capacity and technology required for public access to all formats
Ongoing		Investment in the organisation and transforming the skills and assets to fulfil roles and expectations		

* The RNZ and TVNZ collections are Public Records under the Public Records Act 2005

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

- Significant consolidation of the Property Portfolio: from nine facilities in three regions, to five in one region with two small satellite offices
- \$1.2 million investment in collection storage (\$817,000 from Ngā Taonga cash reserves)
- \$1.5 million investment in ICT infrastructure, digital collection storage and website from Ngā Taonga cash reserves
- Major restructure of the organisation in 2016/17 to align workflows and meet digital archiving requirements

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (refer Table 3)

- Fit-for-Purpose Accommodation:** Exit of earthquake-prone Taranaki Street premises in Wellington and further consolidation of the property footprint
- Digitisation of Betacam Tape collection:** Predominantly from the TVNZ collection, comprising 200,000 tapes. Format is at serious risk of being lost due to tape deterioration and equipment obsolescence
- Fit-for-Purpose ICT Infrastructure:** There are opportunities to become a truly sustainable organisation with the right investment in scalable ICT infrastructure
- Enhanced Outreach and Audience Engagement:** Creation of regional hubs to support Iwi, education, community objectives

Table 2: Growth in Collection Size and Budget 2010-2017



Table 3: Archive Services Preservation & Access Provision

