

Southland Museum and Art Gallery

Niho o te Taniwha

The Southland Museum and Art Gallery is the region's museum, operated by Invercargill City Council.

In 2018, the museum was closed due to its status as an Earthquake Prone Building. We've consistently heard that the Southland Museum and Art Gallery is one of the community's top priorities.

What is the project?

Council commissioned a report by The Building Intelligence Group for options to redevelop the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. The report tabled five options. Council's preferred option is "Option C" in the report. Option C will see Council invest money in improving the Southland Museum and Art Gallery to make it earthquake safe as well as refurbishing the inside of the museum.

The project will result in a significant improvement to the immediate safety of the building and reduce the likelihood of future building closures after a significant earthquake. It will also significantly improve accessibility and address the roof issues (ongoing leaks). The refurbishment includes a museum fit out, furniture fittings and equipment and IT upgrades.

The project is estimated to cost \$56.8 million and take 37 months to complete. However, Council aims to have the museum open by 2026 as this is a complex project which will require different contractors to work on. There is a lot of construction in the city which means we need to carefully plan with contractors to ensure they are available to work on the project.

Why is Council proposing this option?

This option would allow the museum to be opened to the public in 2026 and be fit for purpose.

What are the other options?

Council's other option is to invest \$700,000 into the operational budget for He Waka Tuia. This would give Council time to consider the best location for the museum in the future. However, it would likely mean the construction cost for a new museum would be higher due to inflation.

When would it be delivered?

Council's preferred option would take 37 months to complete. This is made up of 11 months for design, four months for tendering and consenting, and 21 months for the construction itself.

The Museum is scheduled for opening in 2026. The timeframe is slightly extended to enable Council to have the funds required to complete the work and to ensure delivery timetables are met.

How much will it cost?

Council's preferred option has an estimated cost of \$52.5 million. Council will invest \$39.4 million and will seek external funding for the remaining costs.

As well as the capital investment, each year there will be \$3.2 million additional operational costs.

If for any reason significantly more ratepayer funding is required we will consult again to ask you if you want Council to contribute more funding or explore other options.

How can I find more information?

[Southland Museum and Art Gallery Niho o te Taniwha Options Report November 2020 by The Building Intelligence Group](#)

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