

**NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE***Te Ope Kaatua o Aotearoa*

HEADQUARTERS NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

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7808/6/PLAN

10 May 2005

The Chief Executive
Waitakere City Council
Private Bag 93109
Henderson
Waitakere City

Dear Sir

OUTLINE PLAN: REMOVAL OF ST MARKS CHAPEL HOBSONVILLE

This letter is issued under delegation from the Minister of Defence pursuant to s 176A(5) of the Resource Management Act 1991, in response to Waitakere City Council recommendations of 18 March 2005 concerning relocation of the St Marks Chapel at Hobsonville.

The NZDF is seeking to relocate the St Marks Chapel from Hobsonville to Papakura for continued use by the Special Air Services Group.

As RNZAF Hobsonville is designated for Defence Purposes, an outline plan of the relocation proposal was submitted to your council as the Territorial Authority pursuant to s176A of the Resource Management Act, to allow your council to request changes to the proposed works before commencement.

Your report of 18 March 2005 on the Outline Plan of Works recommended that the St Marks Chapel should remain in its current position at Hobsonville Airbase at Buckley Ave. I have considered the points that you have raised and make the following observations;

Firstly, RNZAF Hobsonville is an Air Force Base and is held and designated for defence purposes. Papakura Military Camp similarly is also held and designated for defence purposes. The St Marks Chapel is an NZDF asset, employed for defence purposes at one location, and will remain an NZDF asset employed for defence purposes, at a different location.

As the Chapel is to be relocated for continued use as a Chapel on a Defence establishment, then the relocation is a "Defence Purpose" and is authorised under the designation.

Secondly, I understand that your council has obtained independent architectural advice on the physical heritage attributes of the building. That advice is consistent with NZDF's own assessment and is no different to information available when the

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Chapel was listed as only Category III in the District Plan. I will also note that the physical structure and design of the building itself is replicated by another St Marks Chapel, constructed in the same period, and currently located at nearby RNZAF Whenuapai.

The Chapel has recognised heritage value in relation to its context and setting; for military purposes on a military establishment, both of which will be substantially altered as the adjoining land is vacated by the RNZAF and is subsequently developed by Housing New Zealand Corporation for state housing and marina industrial purposes over the next few years.

Relocation of the Chapel to Papakura Military Camp to serve the Special Air Services Group will act to preserve the heritage values of the Chapel in a military setting.

Thirdly, while there may be strong personal links that some ex-service personnel have with the Chapel, it needs to be recognised that Defence Chapels are not normally available for use by the general public. Services at Hobsonville were discontinued in March 2004. The local community has not reacted in any way to this closure, and no complaints have been received. Regular services for Defence personnel and families continue at the Chapel at RNZAF Whenuapai.

The links that some individuals may have with the Chapel do not override the need to consider first the community of interest for serving military personnel.

Finally, it appears that your council may have had an expectation that the Chapel and the land it sits on would be passed over to the Council as part of reserve contributions required for the redevelopment of Base Hobsonville. Any such expectation that your council may have had could only ever have been a prospective opportunity, should the statutory disposal process have allowed it.

It has always been clear that RNZAF Hobsonville would be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Public Works Act 1981. This has meant that most of the land at Hobsonville, and explicitly that land upon which the Chapel is situated, is about to transfer to Housing NZ Corporation Limited for State Housing purposes.

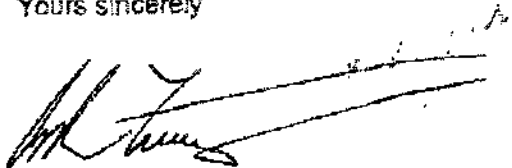
St Marks Chapel is a Defence asset. It was built for military purposes, it has served the military for over 60 years and it is the Defence community, which has had a long and significant association with the chapel. It is NZDF's intention that the Chapel be retained in a military setting where it will continue to serve the Defence community and where it will be more appropriately preserved, appreciated and respected than it would on land that is no longer used for Defences purposes.

I consider therefore that the Outline Plan to remove the Chapel does give effect to the purpose of the Resource Management Act and is not contrary to its principles, including the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. s 6(f) refers.

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My decision under section 176A(5) of the Resource Management Act is to decline your request that the Chapel remain in its current position at Hobsonville.

Yours sincerely



B.R. FERGUSON
Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force

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18/5/05

B. R. Ferguson
Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force
Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force
Private Bag
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir

OUTLINE PLAN: REMOVAL OF ST MARKS CHAPEL HOBSONVILLE

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10 May concerning the decision by the Minister of Defence to relocate St Marks Chapel at Hobsonville to Papakura Military base for the Special Air Services Group.

The Council has received legal advice that the proposal to remove the chapel from the base and relocate it to Papakura is outside the scope of the designation and therefore a resource consent is required to remove the category II heritage building as a discretionary activity. It is on the basis of this advice that Council indicated to NZDF on or about 16 February that Council did not support the removal of the Chapel and recommended that it withdraw the request. Subsequently, the Council's recommendation was refused, and your latest letter confirms your decision on this recommendation.

The Council's view is that the building does have heritage merit not only in terms of its architectural significance but more importantly in terms of its significance to the community. It is an integral part of the military base and contributes to the sense of place or identity of the local area. The Council is keen for the Chapel to remain as part of a cluster of buildings that would form a reserve to be used by the Hobsonville community. The Council's Planning & Regulatory Committee passed a resolution in March this year stating:

"312/2005

That the Mayor be requested to contact (the MP for the Hobsonville area) John Key and the honourable Chris Carter to join him in approaching the Chief of Defence Forces to ensure that St Marks Chapel at Hobsonville Airbase and the surrounding heritage buildings remain on their present sites."

It is interesting to note that NZ Defence's approach to managing historic heritage is not entirely consistent with s6(f) of the Resource Management Act 1991 or the Policy for Government Departments' Management of Historic Heritage 2004 developed by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. In particular, policy 12 regarding use and policy 15 regarding community participation are relevant and state:

"Policy 12- Use

Government departments will ensure that their places of historic heritage value in active use are managed in such a way that:

- i. they retain, where appropriate, an ongoing function in the life of the community compatible with their heritage values;
- ii. the continuation of original or long-term uses is strongly encouraged; and
- iii. they are not disposed of without fully exploring options for their reuse or alternative compatible uses.

Policy 15 – Community participation

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Government departments will invite public participation, where appropriate in the management of historic heritage of special significance through various initiatives, such as:

- i. seeking public comment on conservation plans or disposal of historic heritage;
- ii. establishing partnerships with communities of interest; and
- iii. voluntary notification of resource consent applications."

It is the Council's view that the Chapel has a role and function that is broader than just another building asset on the military base and its location is an integral part of its cultural heritage value. The Chapel has been a place of worship for the community and local people have a connection with the site. Many of them have been married, or attended baptisms and funerals there. The Council is aware of documents that indicate that the Chapel was funded by private individuals in Hobsonville. If the Chapel remains in its current location, it will have an on-going function in the life of the community that is compatible with its heritage values.

The Council's solicitors' have been instructed to file an amended appeal with the Environment Court on the Outline Plan of Works decision and seek a declaration on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Harry O'Rourke, MNZM, JP
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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