Submission to the National Archival and Library Institutions Ministerial Group

The Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust Board ('ATLET') is registered as a board pursuant to the Charitable Trusts Act 1957. The Board stands as the trustee of the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Fund ('Research Fund'). As trustee of the Research Fund, the Board is empowered to support the research functions and activities of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

ATLET works closely with The Friends of the Turnbull Library ('Friends'). We have read the submission of the Friends to the Ministerial Group dated 24 July 2018 and we fully support that submission. The Friends' submission is a very thorough and well informed response to the specific questions posted by the Ministerial Group seeking submissions, and we thank the Friends for the work which they have undertaken.

One of our trustees, Dr Brian Opie, has also lodged a personal submission to the Ministerial Group and ATLET also supports his submission dated 9 August 2018.

The preservation of this country's documentary heritage is vital and the Alexander Turnbull Library is at the core of such preservation activities. In our work with the Library and its officials, we have noted with growing concern the lack of financial resources to enable the Library to fully and effectively fulfil its role, and we are particularly concerned about the apparent lack of an adequate staffing resource at present. We are worried that the role of the Alexander Turnbull Library has been downgraded since the National Library has become part of the Department of Internal Affairs. For the Alexander Turnbull Library to fulfil its historical role, and its ongoing role of ensuring the whole of New Zealand can benefit from its research functions and activities, requires investment in resources to make it fit for purpose. We have seen that with the National Library remaining part of the Department of Internal Affairs, the harder it has become for the Alexander Turnbull Library to achieve its objectives and desired outcomes.

For these reasons, and for the reasons which they have outlined, we fully support the submissions of the Friends and Dr Opie.

JW Meads
Chair of the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust Board

11 September 2018