

Appraisal Report for Legacy Records - estray papers for the Public Works Department

File No./Document ID	APP2018/0017
Agency	Archives New Zealand, National Office
Contact Details	[Details removed]
Date	28 June 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this appraisal report is to obtain disposal authorisation from the Chief Archivist for records relating to the Public Works Department, which came into Archives New Zealand custody on Monday 8 January 2018. Under section 20 (1) of the *Public Records Act 2005*, the Chief Archivist must authorise the transfer, alteration, destruction, sale or discharge of public records. Before authorising any disposals, the Chief Archivist must also give no less than 30 days' public notice of the intention to dispose of public records.

This report, which makes a disposal recommendation based on the initial appraisal of the records, is submitted to the Chief Archivist as part of the public notification and authorisation process.

Appraisal circumstances

[Name removed] and [Name removed] first contacted Archives New Zealand on 3 August 2017 stating that they had within their possession a collection of papers that had been maintained by their grandfather, [Name removed]. The records were created by the Public Works Department and a large portion of the records have been assessed to be public records. [Name removed] was employed by the Public Works Department Hydro-Electric branch (1913 – 1932) and the collection of papers, including reports, correspondence, letters, maps and plans and photographs, have been held by the family since [Name removed] passed away in 1978.

The material was registered (W6083) and has been set aside for further internal assessment as to the status of the material, to determine whether the contents are public or non-public records. An initial assessment was carried out and a report compiled which made the following determination:

It is recommended that the archival value of the correspondence, reports, maps and plans and site evaluations, along with a small number of private records, be assessed through the legacy appraisal process. The newspaper articles and magazine clippings are assessed as non-public records, and where they should be recommended for destruction under GDA7 (DA576), class 1.3, it is recommended that they remain part of the donation because of the complementary nature they bring to the public records identified.

Scope

Small paper collection from the Public Works Department which includes correspondence, maps and plans and site evaluations, ca. 1920 – 1930. There are a significant number of public records, along with a scrapbook which includes both public and non-public records that have been glued to the pages.

Format

The records being appraised are physical formats (text).

Function/Activity Information

The Immigration and Public Works Department was established in 1870 and the functions of the department varied over its early years as the definition of public works administration shifted. There have been a number of name changes since the department was first established.

The Public Works Department was initially mainly concerned with central government administration of road and railway construction. Over time it also took on responsibility for the public acquisition of land for all local and national government purposes; river control, water rights and land erosion; and the administration of town and country planning.

The Arapuni Station and Dam was the first Government-built station on the Waikato River, 55km upstream from Hamilton and 16km from Putaruru. Arapuni was the pioneer development of the Waikato Valley Hydro-Electric power programme carried out between 1929 and 1966 and of the seven stations built on the Waikato during that period, only Maraetai exceeds Arapuni in capacity.

Officially the Ministry of Works and Development was disestablished in 1988 and the Department of Lands took over its property acquisition and disposal. The Works and Development Services Corporation (NZ) Ltd (WORKS) was established under the *State Owned Enterprises Act 1986* and assumed control of the consultancy services, civil construction, property maintenance and facilities management.

Methodology

The documents, maps and plans and photographs have been identified as public records during the internal assessment process, and have been appraised using the legacy records appraisal template. There were non-public records amongst the public records but it is recommended that these remain part of the donation.

For the purpose of this appraisal, these records are considered to be estrays, under section 37 (c) of the *Public Records Act 2005* an stray record means a public record, public archive, or protected record that has not been disposed of in accordance with an authorisation of the Chief Archivist. Research that was undertaken during the initial assessment of the records was used to inform the appraisal process. This research was conducted by looking at existing Public Works Department holdings held at Archives New Zealand.

In order to make an informed decision on a disposal action, the appraisal criteria and indicators of value set out in Archives New Zealand's Appraisal Statement (issued March 2014)¹ have been applied to the records. The Business and Accountability Value statements are of particular relevance for these records

1. For more information see the Appraisal Statement on the Archives New Zealand Records Toolkit website, <http://records.archives.govt.nz/assets/Guidance-new-standard/16-Sm3-Appraisal-Statement-Pdf.pdf> (accessed 11 January 2018)

Description of material

Class 1. – Documents and reports/Correspondence, letters and notes

Documents

- An original document which includes hand drawn drawings, including specifications, drawings, Hydro-Graphical survey of river from Powerhouse to Brandon's Pool, the suspension bridge, plan of the village, plans for hostel and staff cottages, map of Waikato River and North Island showing proposed hydro-Electric power development, river flows measured 1921 – 1923 and a road map (130 pages)
- Tender documentation for the Arapuni Electric Power Supply. Public Works Department, New Zealand. Section 2; Powerhouse and plant. Plan no. PW55, document dated 21 May 1924
- Arapuni Power Development: Record of Water Data during diversion of Waikato River into Headrace and over Spillway, dated 2 December 1927 – 1 January 1928

Reports

- Upper Auxiliary Dam: measurements, calculations, costing, photo dated 18 August 1926. Arapuni Needle Dam – contract, estimates and design. Arapuni temporary dam – design, calculations
- Report on Arapuni Power Development, auxiliary dams for Waikato River diversion, no date on this report
- Arapuni Hydro Electric Power Station – report dated 1930: relating to the damage that took place at Arapuni Hydro Electric Power Station on the 7th June 1930. 2 copies – one for [Name removed]
- Notes - on the engineering survey of the proposed Arapuni Dam site, by C. B. Sealy, Arapuni. 1920. The New Zealand Journal of Science and Technology, Vol. III, No. 2, pp 72-79, dated 1920
- [Name removed] folio of letters, contracts, instructions, reports, budgets, costs, - relating to construction of the village, dam and tunnels, lists of equipment, ca. 1924 – 1926
- [Name removed] folio of letters, contracts, instructions, reports, budgets, costs, - relating to construction of the powerhouse, spillway piping, roading, ca. 1927 – 1928

Correspondence/notes

- Notes - on the engineering survey of the proposed Arapuni Dam site, by C. B. Sealy, Arapuni. 1920. The New Zealand Journal of Science and Technology, Vol. III, No. 2, pp 72-79, dated 1920

Letters

- [Name removed] folio of letters, contracts, instructions, reports, budgets, costs, - relating to construction of the village, dam and tunnels, lists of equipment, ca. 1924 – 1926
- [Name removed] folio of letters, contracts, instructions, reports, budgets, costs, - relating to construction of the powerhouse, spillway piping, roading, ca. 1927 – 1928

Class 2. – Maps and plans

Maps and plans

- Arapuni Electric Power Scheme. Specifications and conditions of contract. Section 1; Headworks; Plan no. P.W.D. 56666, revised date April 1923
- Arapuni Electric Power Scheme; Section 1 – Headworks. Specifications, additional clauses and drawings; Plan no. P.W.D. 56666, revised date June 1923

- Arapuni Power Development; Water level in Forebay and movement of cracks; Plan no. E.951, dated June 1930
- North Island Electricity Supply; forecast of Load and Construction Program. Diagrams accompanying a report dated 18 December 1929; Plan No. E.894, diagram of comparison of estimated load with plant capacity, ca. 1930 – 1940
- Blue print of the Arapuni Power Development; Limits of stressors in Arapuni Dam. Reservoir Empty – Reservoir Full. Scale 30 feet = 1 inch; Plan no. Arapuni 135, sheet 2, dated 14 August 1925
- Blue print of the Arapuni Dam; Foundation Stresses. Scale drawing 1 inch = 30 feet; Plan no. F.294, dated 19 August 1930
- Blue print of the Arapuni Electric Power Development; Typical cross section of powerhouse. Scale drawing 1/8 inch = 1 foot; Plan no. F.163, dated 23 May 1928
- Plan for the New Zealand Public Works Department; Waikato River Power Survey; Waikato River. Longitudinal Section traced 22 November 1938; Horizontal Scale 1 inch = 4 miles. Vertical scale 1 inch = 200 feet

Class 3. – Photographs/Scrapbook album

Photographs

- Black and white photograph was taken by [Name removed]; Arapuni Power Development; depicts the layout, showing the roads, village and river. Scale 1 inch = 200 feet
- Black and white mosaic panoramic photograph taken in 1924 by [Name removed] (four photographs stitched together to form a panoramic view) which shows where the Arapuni Powerhouse was later constructed

Scrapbook Album

- Newspaper cuttings from 1930 and Suspension Bridge specifications
- Arapuni Hydro-Electric power works. (Statement by the Hon. W. B. Taverner, Minister of Public Works), New Zealand 1930
- Arapuni Hydro-Electric power works. Geological report (together with statement by the Hon. W. B. Taverner, Minister of Public Works)
- Hand written report and notes from Arapuni, 6 August 1930 and other dates in June and July 1930
- P.W. 61/12 Arapuni; Land Movement at Arapuni, dated 12 August 1930
- Report about the position at Arapuni, 25 August 1930 and P.W. 61/12
- Sir W.G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co Limited; Arapuni Hydro-Electric Power Development; Diversion Tunnel Gates, dated 1 March 1928
- Auckland Weekly News, dated 12 May 1921; Photo " A Striking view of the Arapuni Gorge, near the site of the proposed Hydro-Electric Power Works" photograph by [Name removed]
- Photographs from Auckland Weekly News, dated 8 February 1923. Photograph shows the river flowing through gorge below site of proposed dam with the Public Works boat being sent across river on cableway above the water. Members of French trade mission visiting site with Public Works officials (some of these photos were taken by [Name removed])
- Photos from Auckland Weekly News, dated 24 June 1926; Suspension Bridge, Power House site, concrete mixers at site of dam, view down over powerhouse site, initial work in connection with great main dam.
- Newspaper cutting dated 27 July 1926 showing 'Blasting the intake dumpling at Arapuni yesterday afternoon'

- Photographs from Auckland Weekly News, dated 12 January 1928; Photo of prehistoric forest exposed by rushing water at Arapuni, debris causing problems at Horahora Hydro-Electric works below Arapuni, scene at the Main Dam; Scene at spillway; Water makes new channel after passing over spillway
- Photographs from Auckland Weekly News, dated 29 May 1929; Includes various photographs of the construction work
- Newspaper photographs; Engineers change landscape at Arapuni; Filling the lake at Arapuni; Formation of lagoon at Arapuni
- Newspaper article dated 1928; "Arapuni Spectacle, river over spillway, filling of the lake, new cataract forms, terrific erosion occurs, remarkable changes"
- Article from the North Island Electric Supply concerning the growth of demand up to 1940

Value Statement

All classes of records contribute to the knowledge and understanding of New Zealand history, society and the development of infrastructure.

The records demonstrate the innovation, planning, development and improvement of New Zealand Hydro-Electric services and also provides evidence of the types of construction methods used during the Arapuni Electric Power Development scheme.

The records have intrinsic value by reason of age and historical association and are linked to a period of development in New Zealand where large scale public works schemes were being implemented.

Retention and Disposal Recommendations

It is recommended correspondence, reports, maps and plans, scrapbook and site evaluations be transferred to the control of the Chief Archivist once the disposal is authorised.

The newspaper articles and magazine clippings are assessed as non-public records, and where they should be recommended for destruction under GDA7 (DA576), class 1.3, it is recommended that they are transferred to Alexander Turnbull Library, along with the personal correspondence identified (14 items). These items will add value to an existing collection relating to the donor.

Access Recommendations

It is recommended that the access status is open for all public records.