

0.0 Project Updates February 2026**File Number:** A19606839**Author:** s 7(2)(f)(ii)**Authoriser:** s 7(2)(f)(ii)**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide updates about progress of projects/activities with respect to the management and development of Mauao, and seek decisions where required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao:

- (a) Receives the report "Project Updates February 2026".
- (b) Approves a review of the Mauao Conservation Plan 2015 and directs staff to commence the review.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This report presents an update on the current projects and activities related to the management and development of Mauao. It outlines progress made since the last reporting period, highlights changes, and seeks decisions where necessary.
3. It also seeks approval to undertake a scheduled review (as prescribed in the current plan), of the Mauao Conservation Plan 2015 (Conservation Plan). The aims of the Conservation Plan review are to (i) maintain its operational relevance (ii) ensure it continues to reflect the aspirations of the Mauao Trust and deliver the Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan (iii) respond to legislative changes (iv) monitor implementation progress (v) inform future planning and investment (vi) ensure continued protection, conservation, and management of the Mauao Historic Reserve.

BACKGROUND

4. A number of projects and activities are taking place with respect to management and development of Mauao, either in accordance with the Mauao Historic Reserves Management Plan 2018 and the associated Te Mahere Whakamahinga O Mauao (Mauao Implementation Plan), 2021 version, or outside of those plans.
5. This report provides an update on those projects and activities.
6. It also seeks approval to undertake a scheduled review of the Mauao Conservation Plan 2015.

DISCUSSION

7. The following tables provide detail of the status of existing projects/activities, new projects for consideration, and next steps required to progress them.
8. For ease of interpretation, projects that have updates/changes/are new since the last report (November 2025) are shaded blue, with the updated/new text underlined.

Table 1.1 – Project Updates as at November 2025 – Mauao Implementation Plan (refer Attachment 1 for a copy of Mauao Implementation Plan for further details)		
Project/activity description in Mauao Implementation Plan	Update/Discussion	Next steps
F1 – Undertake Archaeological Research to inform development of interpretation, restoration and planting plan.	In progress: - The Mauao Trust, at a workshop in September 2021, indicated support to the draft strategy, but requested a matauranga Māori review of the draft strategy, before it was formally adopted. This is underway and anticipated to be completed in the short term. - In the meantime, some geophysical and survey investigations have been undertaken. - Upon review of the draft strategy, Mauao Trust and Ngā Poutiriao will need to approve it, to enable the actual research to be undertaken. - At its 12 June 2025 hui, Ngā Poutiriao hui resolved that the Chair of Ngā Poutiriao is able to approve the final plan, subject to prior approval by Mauao Trust, to progress this project. - Upon approval of the research strategy, staff will proceed with implementing the research strategy, using currently available budgets. <u>Ensure consideration of implications during the proposed upcoming review of the Mauao Conservation Plan – refer table 1.2 for further details, subject to Ngā Poutiriao approval to review the Conservation Plan in 2026.</u> There is existing budget to complete the review of the strategy, and to commence its implementation. Options to acquire any unbudgeted funding for implementation include TCC and alternative funding, and will be subject to normal funding decision making processes.	Complete matauranga Māori review and approval of the draft research strategy.

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F2 – Design and deliver Placemaking and Interpretation elements.	Substantially complete: • Installation of 2021 approved placemaking and interpretation elements completed in June 2024. • Installation of additional seating, fencing and signage, per direction by Ngā Poutiriao in October 2024, scheduled for completion by end of July 2025. • Installation of CCTV, per Mauao Trust request and funding re-allocation approved by Ngā Poutiriao on 12 June 2025: ○ 3 of 4 installed ○ Final one in progress – <u>due for completion February 2026</u>	Complete installation of last CCTV camera (<u>scheduled for February 2026</u>).
F3 – Prepare and implement Korowai Restoration and Planting Plan.	Substantially complete: • A restoration and planting plan has been prepared and is being implemented annually through an operational budget. • Upon completion of archaeological research directed by the Archaeological Research Strategy, is it anticipated that additional areas of Mauao will be identified as suitable for planting to restore the Korowai o Mauao. At that time, staff will review the restoration and planting plan, seek approval from Mauao Trust and Ngā Poutiriao to any amendments, and commence implementation of the reviewed plan. • <u>Ensure consideration of implications during the proposed upcoming review of the Mauao Conservation Plan – refer table 1.2 for further details, subject to Ngā Poutiriao approval to review the Conservation Plan in 2026.</u> There is existing budget available to continue the to undertake planting to restore the Korowai o Mauao.	Review available planting areas based on findings of archaeological research (item F1 above). Seek approval from Mauao Trust and Ngā Poutiriao to amended restoration and planting plan. Implement amended restoration and planting plan with available budgets.
F4 – Implement hang gliding guidelines. Ngā Poutiriao annually receive BOP Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club report, consider review of hang gliding	Due now: • The current (2022) rules for hang gliding and paragliding operations on Mauao require BOP Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club (the Club) to report annually to Ngā Poutiriao. The report must, as a minimum, summarise the previous year's activities, report on health and safety issues and incidents, and include a review of the operating rules.	Defer decision until after decisions about Mauao resting and events management. Receive annual report from the Club in the meantime.

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and paragliding operating rules, and consider annual permission for vehicle access on Mauao.	- Ngā Poutiriao is able to provide feedback to the Club throughout each year, about any complaints about the activity, and the Club is required to respond and include feedback in their annual report and review of the rules. - It is understood that Mauao Trust has concerns about health and safety incidents on Mauao associated with the activity. - In addition, permission is required annually from Ngā Poutiriao to drive vehicles to the summit. - Reporting and request are now overdue. - There is strong relation to Project F8 Mauao Resting, and the project to develop decision making framework for activities/events on Mauao discussed at Table 1.2 below. - Mauao Trust have asked that decisions on hang gliding and paragliding be deferred until decisions on options to provide for resting and events have been made, to ensure a consistent approach to decision making is applied. No specific budget is allocated, as this activity is undertaken by staff within their roles.	
F5 – establish and implement rock climbing guidelines for Mauao	complete	n/a
F6 – plan of works for Peace Monument	complete	n/a
F7 – investigate establishment of year-round fire ban on Mauao	complete	n/a
F8 – Mauao Resting period establishment. Investigate options to rest	In progress: Discussions around resting options for Mauao have been ongoing for a number of years.	Mauao Trust will provide direction to Ngā Poutiriao on preferred resting period(s).

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Mauao through restricting public access to the maunga, whilst not unduly restricting recreational opportunities to the Reserve.	- It is understood that Mauao Trust are in the process of discussing preferred resting period(s) for Mauao. - Mauao Trust will provide direction to Ngā Poutiriao on preferred resting period(s). As this is an “investigate” project, there is no specific budget, as it comprises staff time only. Costs for implementation of resting will be identified through the investigation, and funding sources will be considered at that time.	
F9 – establish and implement rock stability monitoring programme	Complete	n/a
F10 – Prepare and implement Fatality Management Procedure Development.	In progress: - A scoping document which will be used to prepare a Fatality Management Procedure has been prepared by staff, and is currently with Mauao Trust for review and feedback. - Upon review by Mauao Trust, a Fatality Management Plan will be amended by staff, and brought to Ngā Poutiriao for adoption. - It will then be shared with all stakeholders and implemented accordingly. No specific budget is allocated, as this project is undertaken by staff within their existing roles.	Mauao Trust provide their feedback to draft plan – 2 options have been presented to Mauao Trust by Mauao Operations Group for comment. Prepare amended plan based on Mauao Trust feedback, and present to Ngā Poutiriao for adoption. Implement adopted plan.
F11 – Kaitiaki Programme Development. Investigate a kaitiaki programme, co-designed by Mauao Trust and Ngā Poutiriao	Complete: - Investigation is completed, and a Kaitiaki programme is now being implemented by Mauao Trust, with assistance from Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao. - Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao assistance comprises staff time from the Mauao Operations Group. - Education programmes have commenced with support from Mauao Operations Group.	<u>Ongoing implementation by Mauao Trust with support from Mauao Operations Group</u>

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F12 – Sponsorship Framework Development to access new sources of funding for Mauao projects.	In progress: - This project has not been progressed since some earlier discussion at Ngā Poutiriao hui in 2018. - The intent has been to develop a framework to promote sponsorship opportunities to help fund activities on Mauao. - Seeing as no progress has been made to develop a framework to date, it's recommended that the scope of this project should be considered through the current review of the Mauao Implementation Plan (refer Table 1.2 below for details). No specific budget is allocated, as this project is undertaken by staff within their existing roles.	Review scope and timing through the current review of the Mauao Implementation Plan.
S1 - Establish and implement concessionaire standards for commercial activities on Mauao.	In progress: - This project has not been progressed since some earlier discussions at Ngā Poutiriao hui. - This project is important to progress in the current financial environment, as it has the potential to make funds available for the management of Mauao. - It is also directly related to events approvals on Mauao – which is a separate project discussed at Table 1.2 below. - Seeing as no progress has been made to develop a framework to date, it's recommended that the scope of this project should be considered through the current review of the Mauao Implementation Plan (refer Table 1.2 below for details). No specific budget is allocated, as this project is intended to be undertaken by staff within their existing roles.	Review scope and timing through the current review of the Mauao Implementation Plan.
S2 - Establish and implement pest control plan.	Substantially complete: - Establishment has been completed, and implementation is ongoing. - The plan needs to be documented and brought back to Ngā Poutiriao for adoption.	Documented plan to be approved by Ngā Poutiriao.

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	Ensure consideration of implications during the proposed upcoming review of the Mauao Conservation Plan – refer table 1.2 for further details, subject to Ngā Poutiriao approval to review the Conservation Plan in 2026. There is budget available to engage a pest control specialist, if required, to support the preparation of a final plan. Implementation is funded through existing operational budgets.	
S3 - Walkway and Seating Plan Review existing walkways and seating and prepare and implement a plan, having regard to archaeological, cultural and ecological values.	In progress: - A seating plan has been prepared and implemented through the delivery of the placemaking and interpretation project – complete. - A walkway plan has not yet been prepared. - The findings of the Archaeological Research Project (refer F1 above), will help inform the walkway plan. - Whilst no formalised plan for walkways has been prepared, day-to-day management of walkway use is ongoing. - Implementation of the walkway plan will occur subject to available funding. - Ensure consideration of implications during the proposed upcoming review of the Mauao Conservation Plan – refer table 1.2 for further details, subject to Ngā Poutiriao approval to review the Conservation Plan in 2026. There is budget available if required for design and consultancy expenses to assist with plan development e.g. archaeological input.	Through the proposed Conservation Plan review in 2026, review existing walkways and prepare a plan for adoption by Ngā Poutiriao.
S4 - Ministry of Primary Industries/Fisheries NZ - info on kaimoana limits. Work with Fisheries NZ to review signage on Mauao that sets out information on kaimoana limits.	In progress - With the completion of placemaking and interpretation on Mauao, it is considered appropriate timing to engage with Fisheries NZ about the current signs located on and in the immediate vicinity of Mauao, to investigate opportunities to integrate them into the environment. - Mauao Operations Group are currently engaging with Fisheries NZ staff to investigate options, including relocating signs and painting elements of them with reflect the Mauao branding colour palette.	Continue engaging with Fisheries NZ to understand opportunities and potential costs.

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Project/activity description in Mauao Implementation Plan	Update/Discussion	Next steps
	No specific budget is allocated, as this project is intended to be undertaken by staff within their existing roles.	
S6 - Cultural centre/visitor centre investigation. Investigate options to establish visitor centre and/or cultural centre at base of Mauao.	In terms of Ngā Poutiriao investigating a cultural centre/visitor centre, no work has been undertaken to date. However, directly related to this Ngā Poutiriao investigation project is the current project being led by Mauao Trust, to install a Whare Manaaki at the base of Mauao, to serve as a cultural and operational hub for kaitiaki and community education. The Whare Manaaki comprises two buildings with decks, pergolas and carparking. The proposal occupies part of the Mauao Historic Reserve and part of the unformed berm portion of Pilot Bay road reserve. Ngā Poutiriao and Tauranga City Council are supporting the Trust by providing staff resource through the Mauao Operations Group, specifically for project management advice, to prepare and lodge a resource consent application, to facilitate a short term licence to Mauao Trust to occupy the road reserve, and to undertake road stopping to facilitate a long term lease to Mauao Trust. The Trust is responsible for purchasing/funding the buildings and associated infrastructure, obtaining technical reports to support the resource consent application, and funding and managing the install of the buildings. The Whare Manaaki will be operational as early as possible in 2026, subject to all relevant approvals. Mauao Trust has indicated that the use of the whare will be monitored, and future requirements for a cultural and/or visitor centre will be considered. Based on this, it's recommended that the scope of Ngā Poutiriao's investigation project should be considered through the current review of the Mauao Implementation Plan (refer Table 1.2 below for details). <u>Mauao Operations Group has lodged a resource consent application on behalf of Mauao Trust.</u>	<u>Awaiting decision on resource consent application.</u> TCC grant temporary licence to occupy road reserve. TCC undertake road stopping. The scope and timing of Ngā Poutiriao's investigation of a cultural centre/visitor centre investigation should be reviewed through the current Mauao Implementation Plan review.
S7 – Investigate options for, and implement, Mauao Digital	In progress:	<u>Review timing and scope at time of Mauao Implementation Plan</u>

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Storytelling.	- At the October 2024 Ngā Poutiriao hui, it was noted that there was a desire to upgrade the digital cultural storytelling on Mauao. - Digital cultural storytelling had been available using the Arataki Cultural Trails App, but this is no longer available. <u>Currently, there's no active work happening on this project.</u> <u>As Ngā Poutiriao is currently reviewing the Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao Implementation Plan, which includes looking into and implementing digital storytelling for Mauao, it's recommended to hold off on any immediate action.</u> <u>This pause will give the chance to incorporate any updates or refinements to the project scope that might come up during the Implementation Plan review, ensuring all the necessary details are understood from the start of the options assessment.</u> There is some existing budget FY2026 and FY 2027 for research and development of digital storytelling.	<u>review.</u>
S5 - Waka Launching site option. Investigate and implement, subject to feasibility.	No work has been undertaken on these projects to date. It is not proposed to undertake any work on them in the short term.	No work planned in the short term. Review timing and scope at time of Mauao Implementation Plan review.
T2 - Stone jetty repair programme. Establish repair programme for stone steps.		
T1 – undertake archaeological research of stone steps	complete	n/a

Table 1.2 – Project Updates as at November 2025 – Other

Project/Activity Description	Update/Discussion	Next steps
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Table 1.2 – Project Updates as at November 2025 – Other

Develop and implement a “decision making process” for the use of Mauao, including for events.	In progress: ○ Mauao Trust wishes Ngā Poutiriao to review and update the decision-making framework for decisions about the use of Mauao, including for events. ○ In 2022, the Venue and Events Facilitation Team approached Ngā Poutiriao requesting direction on events use of Mauao, with the aim to develop an events decision-making process for Mauao. ○ At the October 2024 Ngā Poutiriao hui, the need for a clear decision-making framework was raised again, during discussions about a proposed event on Mauao. ○ Mauao Trust has advised their aspiration to reduce the number active/sports events and increase the number of passive events, the aim being that passive events become the majority. ○ Management of event use of Mauao is closely related to Project F8 – Mauao Resting Period Establishment, as they both relate to managing the numbers of visitors to Mauao. Therefore further discussion about events management will be undertaken at the time that further discussions about resting take place: ○ It is understood that Mauao Trust (are in the process of discussing) preferred resting period(s) for Mauao. ○ Mauao Trust will provide direction to Ngā Poutiriao on preferred resting period(s), the principles of which will be used to assist with discussions about events on Mauao.	Combine this discussion with future discussions about resting. Mauao Trust will provide direction to Ngā Poutiriao on preferred resting period(s) – refer project F8 above, the principles of which
Review of Te Mahere Whakamahinga ō Mauao 2018-2028 (Mauao Implementation Plan).	In progress: In June 2025, Ngā Poutiriao resolved to establish a working group and commence the review of Te Mahere Whakamahinga ō Mauao 2018-2028 (Mauao Implementation Plan). The implementation plan needs to be reviewed in time to enable potential funding requests to be considered within TCC’s 2027-37 Long-term Plan (LTP). <u>Terms of Reference prepared and working group members have been confirmed:</u> <u>Mauao Trust representatives:</u> [REDACTED] s 7(2)(a) - Privacy	<u>Undertake first working group meeting in February 2026.</u>

Table 1.2 – Project Updates as at November 2025 – Other

	s 7(2)(a) - Privacy TCC representatives: Cr Hēmi Rolleston, Deputy Mayor Jen Scholar, s 6(c) - Maintenance Working Group co-ordinator – s 7(2)(f)(ii) First Working Group meeting is planned for February 2026.	
<u>Review Mauao Historic Reserve Conservation Plan 2015</u>	<u>New project – not yet commenced:</u> <u>The Mauao Conservation Plan 2015 (Conservation Plan) is a comprehensive management document that helps guide the long-term management and protection of Mauao’s heritage, archaeological, cultural and scenic values, and indigenous flora and fauna, whilst providing for continued public access.</u> <u>Refer Attachments 2 and 3 for a copy of the 2015 plan.</u> <u>It was prepared to support the preparation of the Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan 2018 (Management Plan).</u> <u>It describes the environment, identifies the key values, what could harm those values, and then recommends policies and actions to look after the environment.</u> <u>It is a key document to inform day to day operation and management of the reserve, as well as informing development proposals.</u> <u>In order to ensure it remains a living document that reflects current conditions and knowledge, the document states that it should be reviewed by 2025.</u> <u>A key assumption in the review is that the mission, objectives and goals of the Management Plan and Mauao Trust Strategic Plan provide the strategic framework for the Conservation Plan.</u> <u>The purpose and recommended <i>indicative</i> key steps of a review are:</u> • <u>Purpose:</u> ○ <u>a scheduled review, as outlined in the Conservation Plan, and not in response to any specific trigger or event</u> ○ <u>ensure the Conservation Plan remains operationally relevant, reflects aspirations of Mauao Trust, and responds to any legislative changes</u> ○ <u>monitor progress in its implementation</u> ○ <u>inform future planning and investment</u>	<u>Seek approval from Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao to undertake a review of the Conservation Management Plan 2015, in general accordance with the indicative steps described.</u> <u>Subject to Ngā Poutiriao approval to a review, staff will commence the review.</u>

Table 1.2 – Project Updates as at November 2025 – Other

	○ <u>ensure the plan remains effective in guiding the ongoing protection, conservation, and management of the Mauao Historic Reserve.</u> • <u>Recommended indicative key steps to review:</u> ○ <u>Step 1 - assess current site condition/values and their significance</u> ○ <u>Step 2 - evaluate the effectiveness of existing conservation policies in achieving objectives for Mauao set out in the Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan and Mauao Trust Strategic Plan</u> ○ <u>Step 3 – amend/add/delete policies based on review of effectiveness</u> ○ <u>Step 4 - refresh the implementation plan/programme</u> ○ <u>Step 4 - seek Mauao Trust approval</u> ○ <u>Step 5 - confirm legal compliance</u> ○ <u>Step 6 - review monitoring and evaluation framework</u> ○ <u>Step 7 – confirm consistency of the revised Conservation Plan with the Management Plan and Mauao Trust Strategic Plan</u> ○ <u>Step 8 – adopt revised Conservation Plan</u> ○ <u>Step 9 – seek funding for any unfunded actions</u> ○ <u>Step 10 – implement the plan</u> <u>There is specific funding of up to \$49,000 available in existing operational budgets to support this review this financial year, which may be used to for technical assessments, for example. Staff time is in addition to this specific funding.</u>	
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NEXT STEPS

9. Next steps are identified at Tables 1.1 and 1.2.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Te Mahere Whakamahinga o Mauao - Mauao Implementation Plan 2018 v 2 Dec 2020
FINAL PDF New Branding Version - A17919921**
2. **Mauao Conservation Plan VOL 1 FINAL 21-10-15 - A6629035**
3. **Mauao Conservation Plan VOL 2 FINAL 9-10-15 - A6629036**