

9.4 Annual Report

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Author:

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Authoriser:

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide an overview of capital and operational project delivery at Mauao for Financial Year 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao:

- (a) Receives the report "Annual Report".
- (b) Authorises staff to make any amendments to the content required to ensure accurate record.

BACKGROUND

2. The Mauao Trust and Tauranga City Council have partnered to deliver the Mauao Implementation Plan 2018 – 2028. The Mauao Trust are the owners of Mauao, and Tauranga City Council is working alongside the Mauao Trust to jointly manage the reserve for everyone to enjoy. The Implementation Plan reflects a shared vision for Mauao. Funding for the implementation of Placemaking and Interpretation projects was successfully obtained through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP).
3. The Implementation Plan is underpinned by the principle of integrated management and is an adaptive and holistic tool which recognises the environment as complex, interconnected, and ever changing. The Implementation Plan sets out priorities for actions and provides guidance to the timing and costing of projects which are consistent with the vision to protect, conserve and enhance Mauao as a Taonga of exceptional significance.

SUMMARY OF 2022/23 CAPITAL DELIVERIES

4. Placemaking and Interpretation is identified as project F2 in the Mauao Implementation Plan. This project has multiple aspects and elements which are being delivered in parallel across the maunga.
5. The Placemaking and Interpretation programme of works has an extended delivery phase, with some smaller and simpler elements able to be fully completed early on, while other more complex aspects require appropriate consents from statutory authorities and input from technical specialists.
6. In FY23 some \$925,816 was spent on delivering Mauao Placemaking and Interpretation projects. This funding was allocated to a range of projects, including the completion of:
 - Wayfinding signage
 - Summit Phase 2
 - Mid-track seating
 - Karewa/Tuhua (base track)
 - Te Uru Karaka
 - Tangaroa
 - Stone Jetty

- Behaviour Pou
 - Ecological Interpretation Signage
7. The expenditure in FY23 also kicked off a number of projects which are projected to finish in FY24, including:
- Karewa Hairpin
 - Beach near Te Kawa sculpture
 - Te Toka a Tirikawa
 - Waipatukakahu
 - Te Puna Waitapu / Waipareira Well
8. Additional to the above-listed physical works, some of money spent in the financial year funded development of designs for several projects, with further capital spending on the construction and delivery of the projects projected for FY24:
- Fencing at summit
 - Awaiti
 - Lower Summit (northern landing)
 - Hukitawatawa (water tank area)

SUMMARY OF 2022/23 OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES

9. The Operational Fund allocated the Mauao for the 2022/23 financial year was \$731,970. This budget was used to deliver a range of activities and projects, including:
- Pest control programmes. The pulsing method has proven to be effective and is used to target rat populations. This will be ongoing to protect native wildlife from predation. Rabbits are also a focal point of the pest control programme, with fumigation and shooting keeping the population low. Control of the rabbit population is important because their tunnelling activity poses significant risk to the archaeological features.
 - Restoration planting activity will continue to restore Te Korowai o Mauao. Native grasses and plants will be installed at strategic locations to improve habitats provide resilience to erosion. In addition, exotic species will be identified for removal. Focus will be given to large trees which pose risks to archaeological or heritage features.
 - Myrtle rust monitoring and mitigation will ramp up to quickly identify any infected specimens and limit the spread of the pathogens. It is possible that larger areas of infection may be removed or remediated by arboriculture specialists to protect native growth and reduce further spread and contamination.
 - Regular monitoring of rockfall hazards will continue in order to maintain visitor safety within the reserve. Identified hazards may be mitigated by specialists as required to reduce risk of injury.
 - Regular maintenance and management of the walking tracks to keep them safe and in good working order throughout the year and mitigate the impact of the high volume of visitors.

UPCOMING CAPITAL PROJECTS

10. The delivery of capital projects at Mauao will continue as set out in the Implementation Plan. A review of budget allocations and assessment of project costs will be undertaken to ensure that the Implementation Plan is delivered successfully.
11. There area number of capital projects within the placemaking and interpretation programme on the horizon, including:
- Nga Kuri a Tarawhata
 - Hukitawatawa (water tower area) construction

- Tomokanga (waikorire) design
- Rangiwahakamoā Tomokanga and Punga design

UPCOMING OPERATIONAL PROJECTS

12. Continuous maintenance and management of Mauao programmes of work are in place to ensure that the reserve is safe, accessible, and able to be enjoyed by visitors. Planned work for the upcoming financial year includes:
- Removal of the current health and safety risk at Te Kuia Rock/North Rock
 - Identification of exotic trees for removal, with particular consideration given to those which are on, or are threatening, archaeological or heritage sites
 - Creation of a plan to source varieties of harakeke for future planting at Waipatukakahu
 - Renewal of a section of Te Ara Tūtanga (base track) in order to manage degradation from high levels of use
 - Maintenance to signage and structures in order to maximise the operational life of newly installed assets
 - Pest plant and animal control programmes to protect and enhance the natural environment on Mauao and mitigate negative impacts from non-native species
 - Further archaeological work to determine additional areas for exploration and examination to better understand settlement patterns and sites of significance on the maunga

ATTACHMENTS

Nil