

Memorandum



To: Mauao Project Steering Group

From: § 7(2)(f)(ii)

Subject: MAUAO OPERATIONAL UPDATE – JUNE / JULY 2012

Date: 18th July

The Purpose of this Report is to update the Mauao Project Steering Group on the operational activities on Mauao from June and July 2012.

The most significant issue at this time, for Mauao, was a fallen mature Pohutukawa which is situated 300 meters past Sandy Beach. The tree had blocked the Base track. The track was closed on the 16th July due to the root ball presenting a possible Health and Safety hazard to track users. The bulk of the tree has been removed with the large root ball remaining on site. The root ball is firmly embedded on the slope and will be monitored for any movement over the next 12 months. The section of base track concerned was reopened on the afternoon of the 19th July.

Visitors and Volunteers

The number of people walking around the base track:

- Year total- 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2012 1,017,915
- June 60424
- July Not known at this time

The number of people walking to the summit:

- Year total- 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012 188128
- June 11542
- July Not known at this time

The amount of volunteer hours and volunteer group's:

- Year total- 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012 691
- June 70
- July Not known at this time

The Volunteer groups that have worked on Mauao over this period are the New Zealand Forest and Bird Society, who manage the rodent pest bait station lines and the Mauao Care Group. The care group will next meet on 1st September, 10am at the Rangers Station.

Iron Wharf and Stone Jetty

Matthews and Matthews Architects have completed a draft Conservation Plan for the Stone Jetty and Iron Wharf. The draft is attached.

Track maintenance

The lower third of the Waikorire track (from the lighthouse) has been overlaid with track material. Preparations are under way to complete the other two thirds of the track. Heavier damage to the Waikorire track has been due to extra use while the Oruahine track was closed.

Three sections on the base track have had the surface overlaid with track material. Two of these sections are where sea swells come onto the track during large storms. The third section is above Sandy Beach (harbour side). The water tables have been reduced and the track slightly contoured (by adding track material), due to the fact that there have been a few accidents resulting in fractures and broken bones. Contractors received positive feedback from the track users while this work was being carried out.

Pest control

Forest and Bird are continuing to feed the rodent bait stations. Contractors have been completing night shoots to control Rabbits and have started control on the Petrel control line, as breeding season is nearing.

Donated Pohutukawa's

The Mauao trust have given permission for the planting to go ahead in the proposed location. The Mauao Care Group will be planting the trees once conformation from Historic Places Trust has been received.

The following activities are planned over the next 3 months

Mulching of tree waste from last years Arboriculture work. (Pilot Bay side).

Weed control.

Summit bluff weed control.

Base track upgrade work.

Waikorire track overlay.

Spring weed control.

