

9.4 Project Updates November 2025

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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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao:

- (a) Receives the report "Project Updates November 2025".
- (b) Establishes a working group comprising "insert name(s)" (representatives from Mauao Trust) and "insert name(s)" (representatives from Tauranga City Council) to work on the review of Te Mahere Whakamahinga o Mauao (Mauao Implementation Plan).
- (c) Directs staff to commence Mauao Implementation Plan review, in general accordance with the indicative key steps at Table 1.2.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This report provides Ngā Poutiriao ō Mauao (Ngā Poutiriao) with a concise update on the progress of projects and activities concerning the management and development of Mauao.

BACKGROUND

3. 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 Te Mahere Whakamahinga O Mauao (Mauao Implementation Plan), 2021 version, or outside of that plan.
4. This report provides an update on those projects and activities.

DISCUSSION

5. The following tables provide detail of the status of existing projects/activities, and next steps required to progress them.

6. Projects that have updates/changes since the last report (June 2025) are shaded blue.

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 Maori review of the draft strategy, before it was formally adopted. This is underway and anticipated to be completed in the very 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. - There is budget available in the Mauao Development budget, to commence implementation of the strategy this year, and the following two years. 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 Maori review of the draft research strategy. Mauao Trust and Ngā Poutiriao Chair approve final strategy. Upon approval, staff commence implementation using available budgets.
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	Complete installation of last CCTV camera.

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	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	
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. 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 and paragliding operating rules, and consider annual permission for vehicle access on Mauao.	Due now: - The current (2022) rules for hang gliding and paragliding operations on Mauao require BOP Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club (the Club) – refer Attachment 4 – 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. - 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	Defer decision until after decisions about Mauao resting and events management. Receive annual report from the Club in the meantime.

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	vehicles to the summit – Refer Attachment 5. • 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 Mauao through restricting public access to the maunga, whilst not unduly restricting recreational opportunities to the Reserve.	In progress: • Discussions around resting options for Mauao have been ongoing for a number of years. • 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	Mauao Trust will provide direction to Ngā Poutiriao on preferred resting period(s).

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)

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	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	In progress: - Discussions around the development of a Kaitiaki Programme for Mauao have been ongoing for a number of years. - The Mauao Trust has been leading the design of a programme. - It is now considered timely for Ngā Poutiriao to work with Mauao Trust to support implementation of the proposed programme. - This could include Ngā Poutiriao providing resource from the Mauao Operations Group to assist Mauao Trust to investigate how best to implement the proposed programme, including identifying costs and potential funding sources/opportunities. There is staff time available through the Mauao Operations Group to assist Mauao Trust to investigate the design of a proposed programme. There is currently no TCC budget to support implementation.	Education programmes have commenced with support from Mauao Operations Group. Main activities currently are school education programmes.

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Project/activity description in Mauao Implementation Plan	Update/Discussion	Next steps
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	Document the pest control plan and bring to Ngā Poutiriao for adoption by June 2026.

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	adoption. 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. There is budget available if required for design and consultancy expenses to assist with plan development e.g. archaeological input.	Report back to Ngā Poutiriao by June 2026, with recommended next steps.
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. No specific budget is allocated, as this project is intended to be undertaken by staff within their existing roles.	Continue engaging with Fisheries NZ to understand opportunities and potential costs.
S6 - Cultural centre/visitor centre investigation.	In terms of Ngā Poutiriao investigating a cultural centre/visitor centre, no work has been undertaken to date.	Mauao Operations Group lodge resource consent application upon

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Investigate options to establish visitor centre and/or cultural centre at base of Mauao.	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 Trust's preferred location and site plan is shown at Attachment 2. 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).	receipt of all technical reports. 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 Storytelling.	In progress: - 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 has been available using the Arataki Cultural Trails App. Technical support for the app from its developers is being reduced e.g. it been removed from the App Store and Google Play, though it is still available via a website platform.	Takawaenga Maori Unit will report back to Ngā Poutiriao in due course.

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	The Takawaenga Maori Unit are working on the details of a proposal, and will report back at a later date. There is some existing budget next year and the following year for research and development of digital storytelling.	
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
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	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

Table 1.2 – Project Updates as at November 2025 – Other

	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.	
Review of Te Mahaere Whakamahinga ō Mauao 2018-2028 (Mauao Implementation Plan).	In June 2025, Ngā Poutiriao resolved to establish a working group and commence the review of Te Mahaere Whakamahinga ō Mauao 2018-2028 (Mauao Implementation Plan). Refer Attachment 3 for the June 2025 report with further details. 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). Indicative key steps to guide the review process: - Project initiation - completed by mid December 2025 ○ Workshop to: ▪ define the objectives of the review ▪ outline the issues/opportunities ▪ confirm stakeholders and approvals required ▪ prepare timeline - Review process – January to June 2026 ○ Workshop to discuss issues/opportunities and how to address these in a revised Mauao Implementation Plan ○ Mauao Operations Group (staff) prepare draft revised Mauao Implementation Plan for discussion	Establish working group, comprising representatives from Mauao Trust and Tauranga City Council, to undertake the review. Commence the review.

Table 1.2 – Project Updates as at November 2025 – Other

	○ Workshop to discuss draft revised Mauao Implementation Plan ○ Prepare final draft Mauao Implementation Plan ○ Seek approvals from stakeholders identified at project set up.	
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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. Nil

NEXT STEPS

8. 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 Trust whare manaaki - location and site plan - A19070537**
3. **Review of Te Mahere Whakamahinga O Mauao (Mauao Implementation Plan) -
A17903834**