



Memorandum

To:

CC:

s 7(2)(f)(ii)

From:

s 6(c) - Maintenance of Law

Date: 25 May 2023

EXOTIC TREE REMOVAL – MAUAO

The purpose of this memorandum is to seek approval to remove 8 exotic trees on the southern side of Mauao. Delegated authority of the Minister of Conservation allows the General Manager Community Services to approve such removal within section 5.2.2 F of the Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan.

Background Information

The removal of these exotic trees is part of the progressive exotic removal outlined in section 5.2.2 F of the Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan (Objective ref. A12546474). Further, these trees which are aging, are currently growing on Archaeology features. It was witnessed in cyclone Gabriel that not only old trees pose a risk to archaeology but also younger exotic trees. This was seen when a medium sized *Macrocarpa* was blown over and pulled its root plate out, leading to some damage. This event showed what needs to be avoided and as such a proactive approach is now being undertaken to remove 8 large exotic trees from and localized to sensitive archaeology.

Based on Historical aerials, these trees range from 40 to potentially 80 years old.

Risks

The risk these trees pose is to the sensitive archaeology through ongoing limb/branch failure and the potential of a complete failure. Furthermore, as these trees are next to and above our walkways there is currently a risk that these failures could reach the track.

The removal works for these trees also pose a risk to the archaeology as any impact with features can be damaging. To avoid this, methodology had the largest weighting in the decision-making process, this has resulted in a methodology that will utilise helicopter lifts to avoid the need to drop limbs/branches on the archaeology. The chosen contractor 'Tree Wise Men Ltd' are a well-known contractor to Tauranga City Council and successfully removed 18 large exotic trees from Mauao last year utilising this same methodology. This was stated as being the 'Golden standard' for removing trees from sensitive archaeology.

As with last year's removals, it is anticipated some members of the community will be dismayed about the removal of large trees. To address this, myself, and s 7(2)(f)(ii) will convey the message around the deteriorating

nature of these trees and the potential damage they will cause to our local history if left to fall naturally.

Exotic trees for removal

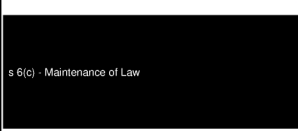

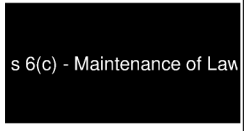


The trees to be removed include:

- 1 x Pine
- 3 x Macrocarpa
- 1 x Poplar
- 2 x Chestnuts
- 1 x Holm Oak

The cost of removal of the trees will be covered by the existing OPEX budget.

Recommendation

It is recommended that 8 exotic trees be removed from the southern side of Mauao in line with the above methodology of utilising helicopter lifts to remove the risk of damage.

Action	Name	Position	Date	Signature
Prepared by	 <small>s 6(c) - Maintenance of Law</small>		25.05.2023	 <small>s 6(c) - Maintenance of Law</small>
Approved by				
Approved by	 <small>s 7(2)(f)(ii)</small>			
Approved by				