

Media Release – embargoed until 9am Tuesday (for safety reasons)

**Mauao – The Boulder event:
Tuesday 18 March 7-9am**

On the morning of Tuesday 18 March the Tauranga District Council is taking steps to remove a potentially dangerous rock from the summit of Mauao.

This rock has been destabilised following the recent fire event and is approximately the same size as a spa pool.

Removal of the rock involves dislodging it and allowing it to fall down the mountain to a safe resting spot. Dislodging it may be achieved using a crowbar, or, if unsuccessful using this method, then possibly an explosive.

This work will be carried out by Avalon industrial Services Ltd from Hamilton who is recommending its removal.

The rock in question is approximately 3.2 x 3 x 0.75 metres and is estimated to weigh between 15 and 17 tonnes.

The rock may fall towards the Oceanside end of the Mount Motor Camp but previous modelling work makes this unlikely.

However, as a precautionary measure, we are directing all caravan owners to remove their caravans prior to Monday evening to clear the camp site. We are also not seeking publicity before the event to try and minimise the possibility of spectator injury. Safety is of paramount concern.

If we do have to use explosives then we ask that the media assist to allay fears or anxieties that people may have as a result of this. (Clearly if any 'explosion' occurs between 7 am and 9 am - then we are happy for this embargo to be lifted.)

The area will remain closed after the rock has been dislodged to allow other smaller rocks in the vicinity to be dislodged.

The site will be secured by at least 20 personnel including contractors, a security company and staff. The Mount Police will also be in attendance.

Contact person for media enquiries:

§ 7(2)(f)(iii)