

In Reply Please Quote: 5760-2
P260-1-10

6 November 2003

§ 7(2)(f)(ii)

Environment Bay of Plenty
PO Box 364
Whakatane

Dear § 7(2)(f)(ii)

Rocks on Mauao

As discussed today the Council has identified, during routine inspections of Mauao that a very large rock resting above the Motor Camp and Hot Pools has shifted to become a significant risk to public safety.

The Council has initiated an emergency plan to prepare for the removal of the rock next week (Thursday 13 November). The public reserve areas will need to be evacuated from Monday 10 November to enable preparations for the use of explosives and for the protection of the public from falling debris.

Council does not believe that there are any consents required from the Regional Council, however should it be identified that there are I advise that Council is taking these steps in light of the threat to public safety and I regard the situation as being an emergency.

The operation will be highly organised with full media briefings and the Mauao Reserve will be closed completely similarly to the operational approach taken when a rock was removed following the fire during the 2003 summer. The amount of rock requiring removal is at least 10 times that of the 15 – 17 tonnes of rock removed earlier this year.

§ 7(2)(f)(ii) can provide further detail on the operation to your staff next week should any more information be required.

Yours sincerely

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