

## Environment Enhancement fund - Mauao replanting

1. **Sustainable Management** – Our overriding consideration for the restoration of Mauao is that we expect there will be another fire in the future. Our planting plan uses low flammability plants, includes fire breaks and some areas that will not be planted. The Principal Rural Fire officer is updating the fire plan for Mauao so the lessons learnt from the recent fire are applied. Tauranga District Council have funded \$123,000 for the installation of a fire hydrant (to be used to fill monsoon buckets) at the top of the stone steps on the northern side of Mauao which will be installed prior to Christmas 2003. Council is also investigating the possibility of a water connection to the summit of Mauao. Council have also appointed a full time Park Ranger who will be based at Mauao and have established a Friends on Mauao group to help care for and promote Mauao.
2. **Heritage**- A archaeological assessment of Mauao has recently been completed and we have just commissioned a conservation plan which will provide practical management advice and guidelines for managing Mauao.
3. **Community Awareness** - Mauao is the focal point of Tauranga and the community's involvement in replanting has already made people aware of what is involved in the restoration.
4. **Community Participation**- Since the fire in January, a Friends of Mauao Group has been established. Currently there are approximately 120 friends on the data base, these people will be invited to planting days and will be involved in other initiatives. There will be a regular newsletter and the Friends will be updated on what's going on on Mauao. Schools will also be actively encouraged to participate and we plan on setting aside some areas specifically for community planting. Approximately 120 volunteers have already assisted in replanting.
5. **Integrated Management** - The replanting on Mauao will be managed by Tauranga District Council, with input from local Iwi, Environment Bay of Plenty Staff and Department of Conservation staff (HPT, Contractors).
6. **Regional Benefit** -Mauao is a nationally recognised reserve that contains archaeological sites of international significance, any restoration helps promote the area.
7. **Strategic focus** - Revegetation and enhancement of significant ecological areas is a recurring theme in the provisions of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). Mauao is identified as a significant cultural and natural landscape in both the RPS and the Regional Coastal Environment Plan (RCEP). It is identified as an outstanding natural feature and landscape of national importance in the RCEP.

The project to revegetate Mauao fits into the intentions of the above plans as well as meeting the requirements on the Mauao Management Plan to re-cloak Mauao.

8. **Innovation-** Mauao has been planted in the past and lessons have been learnt about plants that grow well and those that do not. An innovative plan has been prepared incorporating fire breaks, some planted areas will be kept clear of ground vegetation, we are planting flax besides the tracks (where practical) to assist making some the planted areas inaccessible. Low flammability plants are being used where possible. The incorporation of these measures into the planting design have not been tried before and we are hoping they will increase the possibility of the planting surviving another attempted fire.
9. **Viability** – This project will be managed in a way in that all the requirements of the project plan are met and completed within the budget requirements and is fully supported by the Tauranga Community.