

10 February 2025



s 7(2)(a) - Privacy

Tēnā koe s 7(2)(a) - Privacy

### INFORMATION REQUEST

On 7 January 2025 you asked for information about the artwork for the new bus stop near Bayfair and the total spend on arborists at Mauao for the last three years. Here is our response to your questions:

- The total spent on artwork for the new bus stop near Bayfair**  
**-Please break this cost down by consultation, contractors and supplies and provide any pictures and design plans.**

Activity	Cost
Design Costs	\$50,000
Fabrication Costs	\$5,742
Installation Costs	\$11,997
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,739</b>

A copy of the design plan and photos of the installed works are attached.

- The total spent on arborists for Mount Maunganui over the last three years.**  
**-Please break this cost down by year and include any usage of helicopters.**  
**-Additionally any justification for the use of these helicopters and type of.**

Year	Activity	Cost
2022	Large exotic tree removal operation including a heavy lift helicopter	\$225,000
2023	Large exotic tree removal operation including a heavy lift helicopter	\$240,000
2024	Work to remove large, failed limb from Pohutukawa that landed on the base track. Additional works to monitor other failed limb that had settled and so access could be maintained.	\$4,551
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$469,551</b>

60-80 years ago, when Mauao was under confiscation, respect for the now protected archaeological features of Mauao were not prioritised. This led to the planting of many exotic trees on these fragile features (i.e. living terraces). Today we understand the importance of retaining and actively protecting historical features.

The exotic trees that were planted, like with other exotic trees in New Zealand, had grown very fast and large, and were in the late stages of their life with many signs of senescence. As trees move into the stages of senescence, larger limb failures occur more often.

The large exotic tree removals identified above were initiated because a large stand of Pine and Macrocarpa were growing directly on the flat of a large archaeological terrace as well as growing on the embankment of the next terrace above. Removal of these trees had been discussed in the previous 5 years, because in storms or weather events, large limbs were breaking off the trees and falling uncontrollably damaging the archaeology. Complete tree failure needed to be avoided. If any of the large exotic trees were to fall naturally, they would have pulled out their 'root-plate', destroying the 700+ year old living terrace.

Removal of the trees had to be achieved without damaging the archaeology that we were trying to protect. With traditional methods or even rigging, impact damage could not be completely avoided, and more importantly there would have been no ability to remove the wood from site. If 200+ tonnes of wood was left stacked on the archaeological site, this would itself damage and change the archaeology.

Mauao is one of the largest Pā complexes in New Zealand and Tauranga City Council has an obligation to protect the cultural heritage of Mauao under the Memorandum of Understanding with iwi, which covers the shared management arrangements for Mauao. For these two reasons, it was vital that these tree removals safeguarded the archaeology.

The decision was therefore made to use a heavy lift helicopter and a very experienced team of arborists to remove these trees while they were standing. Both helicopter removal operations were very successful, removing hundreds of tonnes of material from Mauao, without ever touching the mountain.

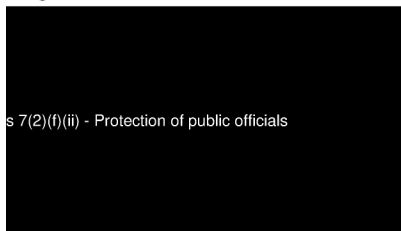
This request and the response have been considered under the LGOIMA<sup>1</sup>. A small amount of personal information has been redacted from the design plan under section 7(2)(a) *to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased natural persons*.

If you are not happy with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

This response may be published on our website. All personal information will be removed.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me.

Ngā mihi



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<sup>1</sup> [Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987](#)