

Memorandum

To:

CC:

s 7(2)(f)(ii) - Protection of public officials

From:

s 6 - Maintenance of law

Date: 18 March 2021

EXOTIC TREE REMOVAL – BASE TRACK OF MAUAO

The purpose of this memorandum is to seek approval to remove 8 exotic trees on the base track 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 the Pine, Elm, Grevillia, and Brachychiton are part of the progressive exotic removal outlined in section 5.2.2 F of the Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan. Further, these trees are currently growing on Archaeology features and would result in damage if they were to fail naturally. In particular, the Pine as this is showing signs of senescence.

The removal of the four Oaks is also covered by the progressive removal of exotic trees but the placement of these trees is unfortunately on a very old puna site where traditional weaving and making of Moka occurred. These trees are deciduous which means every year the dropping leaves fill and clog up this historic puna and ends up creating a soil layer. In addition, there is continued germination of the oak seeds which results in many exotic seedlings around the puna.

As these oaks have grown on this important site for such a long time, they are respected by representatives and as such will be taken off site and carved to be returned to the maunga as taonga.

This historic site where the oaks reside is known as Waipatukakahu, with the removal of these trees, a restoration of Waipatukakahu can be undertaken to return it to its traditional purpose of being a place for weaving.

A review of the TCC Historic database returned two articles dated 1892 and 1902 where there is reference to Mauao being one of the first sites of Arbor day. The 1902 article references five species of trees, of which Pine and Oak are included but lacked detail of the planting site. Although there is the potential for these exotic trees to be deemed historic by some members of the community, the historic value and age of Waipatukakahu is of greater importance.

Risks

This leaf fall and seedling growth stops the flow of this important puna and it has been explicitly expressed by representatives of the traditional owners of Mauao that this continued degradation of their puna, is unwanted.

Through selective methodology, contractors undertaking this works will adhere to the guidelines of our archaeologist to ensure no unintended damage is done to the archaeology.

Some members of the community will be dismayed about the mature trees being removed. The plan is to have onsite signage that will include graphics outlining the restoration planting and information about our commitment to restoring Mauao and his traditional sites.

Exotic trees for removal

The trees to be removed include:

- 1 x Pine
- 1 x Elm
- 1 x Grevillia
- 1 x Brachychiton
- 4 x Oak

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

Recommendation

It is recommended that 8 exotic trees be removed on the base track of Mauao.

Action	Name	Position	Date	Signature
Prepared by			18.03.2021	
Approved by			18.03.2021	
Approved by			18.03.2021	