

Memorandum

To:

CC:

From:

Date: 16 August 2022

Mauao Land Slip

Purpose and background

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline concerns with a land slip near Te Kuia rock on Te Ara Tūtanga track on Mauao and apply for the use of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Risk Fund to assist in implementing an engineering control to protect the public from risk of serious injury or death.

Details

The walking tracks of Mauao are widely known as one of the, if not the busiest walking tracks in Aotearoa NZ. Te Ara Tūtanga (The base track) of Mauao saw 499,093 visitors during 2021, this is an average of over 1,300 visits per day for this track alone.

Due to the high use nature of this track, a large importance is placed on track maintenance and future proofing to ensure the safety of users of today and tomorrow.

As the Asset manager, § 7(2)(f)(ii) has become aware of a worsening situation in relation to an old slip site near Te Kuia rock on Te Ara Tūtanga track.

The face of this slip is steep, and amount of material regularly being dislodged (including soil, clay, rocks and vegetation) is increasing with severe weather events.

This material being released from the face of the slip is reaching the track and creating an active hazard for people walking below.

Furthermore, the bottom of the slip meets Te Ara Tūtanga at a cultural significant site (Te Kuia Rock), and there are aspirations to have this site interpreted. Interpretations at this site would naturally see users spend more time at this site, increasing their risk factor.

To ensure ongoing public safety and to facilitate the aspirations of the Mauao Trust, its recommended that an engineered catch-wall is designed and constructed to stop any migrating material from reaching the track.

A risk assessment has been completed and is attached which highlights that currently the risk has been identified at a score of **15 (Critical Risk)**.

Controls put in place since identifying the risk include removing the seats that were in the area to discourage the public from gathering in the area of the slip and putting in temporary fencing to prevent access close to the face of the slip.



Tauranga City





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Recommendations

It is my opinion that an engineering solution may be available to reduce the risk posed by this slip and therefore I support an application to the risk fund to assist with funding.

At this stage exact costs are not known and an expert is being engaged to investigate a suitable solution however I believe it would be appropriate for an indication to be given at this stage as to whether the risk fund will be available to access in this situation.

Memorandum authorisation

This memorandum is reviewed and authorised by the following Council representatives:

s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Date: 16.08.2022

s 7(2)(f)(i)