Puketāpapa-Pukewiwi Restoration

Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment

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Puketāpapa-Pukewiwi Restoration Project
Proposed Tree Removal

Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 RA Skidmore Urban Design Ltd. has been requested by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (**Authority**) to carry out a landscape and visual effects assessment of the proposal to remove vegetation from Puketāpapa-Pukewiwi (Mount Roskill) as part of a broader restoration project.

1.2 Following the Nga Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act (2014) being legislated in 2014, 14 of the region's volcanic cones were returned to Mana Whenua via the collective legal entity, the Tūpuna Taonga Trust. Governance and administration of the Tūpuna Maunga is undertaken by the Authority. This is a co-governance body with equal representation from mana whenua and Auckland Council (together with a non-voting Crown representative).

1.3 The Maunga (mountains) are taonga (treasures). A key objective of the Authority is to ensure no further degradation or permanent loss of these important sites, with the aim of handing these taonga to the next generation in a better condition than they were received.

1.4 The following assessment is based on the Tree Removal Methodology report by Arborlab Consultancy Services Ltd. (dated September 2019) (the **Arborlab report**).

1.5 In carrying out the assessment, I have visited the subject site (the **Site**) and surrounding environs.

2 The Site and its Context

[See Attachments 1 and 2 to view the site in its context]

2.1 The Auckland Volcanic Field encompasses an approximate 20km radius in central Auckland and contains about 50 volcanoes[1]. The volcanic cones and associated features make a particular contribution to Auckland's distinctive character and sense of place. The volcanic field has erupted sporadically over the last 250,000 years. While it is currently dormant, Rangitoto was the last volcano to erupt, about 600 years ago. The field is considered to still be active.[2]

[1] The exact number depends on how they are counted, as some cones and craters are clustered close together and can be tallied separately or in combination.
[2] B Hayward et al "Volcanoes of Auckland", 2011

2.2 The scoria cone was created by fire-fountaining inside a 500m diameter wet explosion crater with surrounding tuff ring. Complex subsequent explosions and lava flows have contributed to the wider landscape pattern today (see Figure 1).[3]

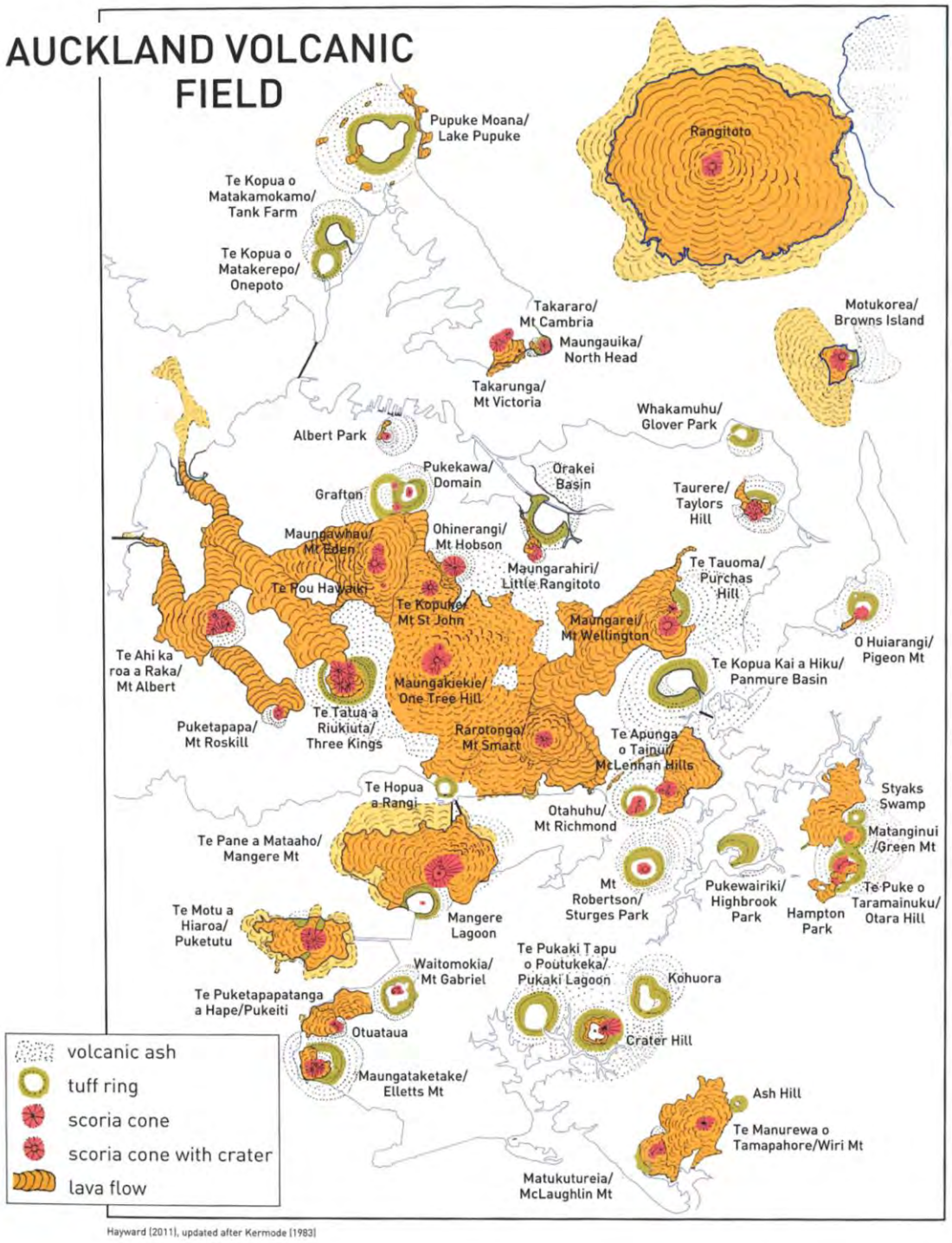

Figure 1: Auckland Volcanic Field (Source: Volcanoes of Auckland, Hayward et al.)

[3] P. 174, 'Volcanoes of Auckland', B. Hayward et al., 2011

2.3 According to some historians, human occupation of Tāmaki Makaurau goes back roughly 1000 years, when the arrival of Polynesian waka from the Pacific brought people who settled along the shores of the Manukau and Waitematā Harbours. The maunga were valued as highly strategic locations and, over time, were developed into an extensive network of settlements. The tuapapa (terraces) on the maunga slopes provided platforms for whare (houses), kauta (cooking shelters), and rua (roofed storage pits). Deep trenches were dug and fences erected above them to protect the tihi (summit) which was the most sacred part of the maunga. The tihi was occupied by the highest-ranking members of the iwi (tribe).

2.4 Today, the maunga are much changed. When Europeans arrived in Tāmaki Makaurau, the maunga were immediately obvious as the highest places from which to survey and plan the city. Roads were eventually carved into the slopes, water reservoirs were sunk into the craters, farming infrastructure and grazing stock were introduced, and exotic trees were planted. Many of the maunga were quarried for building aggregate or to accommodate housing.

2.5 Puketāpapa is one of Auckland's smaller volcanic features. It emerged around 20,000 years ago. It has a height of approximately 110m asl.[4]

2.6 The historic use and habitation of Puketāpapa-Pukewiwi is described in the Archaeological report. The name Puketāpapa means 'flat-topped hill' and Pukewiwi means 'hill covered in rushes'. In pre-European times the Maunga was used as a pā with extensive terracing and storage pits. Many of these were lost when a large water reservoir was installed in the crater. It is believed that the European name, 'Mt Roskill' was given to the Maunga by the earliest European owner, Alexander Kennedy, after Roskhill in Scotland, close to his original home on the Isle of Skye. In 1928, then-owner George Winstone gave 9ha of the Maunga to the Mt Roskill Borough Council to be a recreation reserve, named Winstone Park Domain. Various recreation facilities including tennis courts and a croquet lawn were developed at the cone's northern base, but have since been removed. In the 2000's SH20 was extended, creating a cut through the northern lower flanks of the Maunga.[5]

2.7 Vehicular access to the Site is provided from Dominion Road. The entrance is marked by mature Puriri trees and a feature garden area (see Attachment 3, Photograph 1). The roadway winds around the flanks of the Maunga towards the tihi. Dense plantings of native and exotic trees line the accessway. The buried reservoir has modified the tihi. The upper flanks of the Maunga are sparsely vegetated, mostly kept in grass. The elevation affords expansive views in all directions. This provides a good visual connection with other Maunga in the volcanic field.

[4] Appendix 20 of AUP, R01 viewshaft description
[5] P. 146, Ibid.

2.8 Two wide, grassed entrances (former residential properties) also provide pedestrian access to the Maunga from Roseman Avenue. Two additional former residential sites that front Roseman Avenue further to the south are also included within the Site.

2.9 A shared pedestrian/cycle path runs along the northern boundary adjacent to the SH20 corridor. The path connects to Dominion Road to the east and to the end of Roseman Avenue to the west, providing a continuous cycle/pedestrian route adjacent to the SH20 motorway.

2.10 An inventory of existing vegetation on the Maunga is set out in the Arborlab report (see Table 1). The current tree resource consists of an eclectic mix of native and exotic species, including some very large specimens. The trees are predominantly growing on the northern and north-western slopes. The predominant native species is Pohutukawa. A distinctive vegetative feature is the avenue of Phoenix Palms in the vicinity of the vehicular entrance and carpark area (see Attachment 3, Photograph 2).

2.11 The Maunga is a distinctive volcanic landscape feature that sits within an established urban environment. The Site is bounded immediately to the west, south and east by a residential neighbourhood. This area is currently undergoing major transformation with replacement of existing low-density housing stock to provide an increased density of dwellings.

2.12 Immediately to the north is State Highway 20, which creates a cut in the lower flank of the Maunga. To the north of this, land gently rises to the north. Mount Albert Road runs along a ridgeline; and around the intersection with Dominion Road is a small commercial centre.

2.13 The wider environment contains expansive areas of industrial land. The area also features a range of open spaces that contribute to the amenity of the urban environment. The area also contains a range of social facilities, such as schools, that are usually associated with established residential neighbourhoods.

3 Statutory Context

3.1 A full description of the statutory framework for considering the application is set out in the AEE. Following is a brief summary of the key provisions used to guide the assessment of landscape and visual effects.

Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part)

3.2 The majority of the Site is zoned Open Space – Conservation in the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) (the **UP(OiP)**). A small portion of the northern edge of the Site is within the Strategic Transport Corridor. It is subject to a number of overlays:

- Outstanding Natural Feature overlay (ID113) Mt Roskill volcano (Puketāpapa)

- Natural Heritage: Regionally Significant Volcanic Viewshafts And Height Sensitive Areas Overlay [rcp/dp] - Mount Roskill, Height Sensitive Areas
- Natural Heritage: Regionally Significant Volcanic Viewshafts And Height Sensitive Areas Overlay [rcp/dp] – Viewshafts R1 and R2
- Built Heritage and Character: Historic Heritage Overlay Extent of Place [rcp/dp] - 1580, Mount Roskill/Puketāpapa R11_19 Volcanic cone pā site.

3.3 An overarching objective in the Regional Policy Statement (B4.2.1(3)) is:

> *The visual and physical integrity and the historic, archaeological and cultural values of Auckland's volcanic features that are of local, regional, national or international significance are protected and, where practicable, enhanced.*

3.4 Of relevance is supporting Policy B4.2.2(8), which states:

> *Manage outstanding natural landscapes and outstanding natural features in an integrated manner to protect, and where practicable and appropriate, enhance their values.*

3.5 The regional policy statement objectives and policies are given effect by the identification of the Outstanding Natural Feature (**ONF**) overlay that applies to the Site. Objectives D10.2(1) and (2) seek to protect Auckland's ONFs and to recognise and provide for the ancestral relationship of Mana Whenua with ONFs. Objective (3) promotes, where practicable, restoration and enhancement of ONFs. The supporting suite of policies includes Policy D10.3(3), which sets out how to protect the physical and visual integrity of ONFs; and Policy (4), which sets out the other matters that need to be taken into account while achieving this.

3.6 In terms of historic heritage, at the regional policy statement level, Objective B5.2.1(2) seeks to ensure that the protection, management and conservation of historic heritage places is encouraged. This includes retention, maintenance, and adaptation.

3.7 The Open Space – Conservation zone is applied to open spaces with natural, ecological, landscape, and cultural and historic heritage values. The objectives for the zone (H7.4.2(1) and (2)) seek to ensure that the natural, ecological, landscape and Mana Whenua values of the zone are enhanced and protected from the adverse effects of use and development, and that use and development complements and protects the conservation and natural qualities of the zone.

3.8 These objectives are supported by a number of policies. Of particular relevance to this proposal is Policy H7.4.3(3), which states:

> *Manage the use of open space to protect and enhance Mana Whenua values, and enable appropriate activities which support and re-establish*

the relationship of Mana Whenua and their culture and traditions to their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga.

3.9 Section E16 relates to trees in open space zones. The objectives seek to protect trees in the open space zones that contribute to the cultural, amenity, landscape and ecological values (E16.2(1)) and to increase the quality and extent of tree cover in open space zones, particularly within areas identified for intensified living (E16.2(2)).

3.10 The purpose of the Volcanic Viewshafts and Height Sensitive Areas Overlay in the AUP (OiP) is to appropriately protect significant views of Auckland's volcanic cones through the use of viewshafts and height-sensitive areas. The controls relate to the management of land between the origin point of the viewshafts and the maunga itself.

3.11 There are two protected viewshafts to Puketāpapa identified. Appendix 20 details each of these viewshafts. It identifies the natural heritage, cultural heritage and other attributes of the cone; and for each viewpoint, identifies the attributes/values of the view, describes the origin point, and provides a summary of the view.

3.12 The origin point of the first viewshaft (R01) is from SH20 travelling south. It is identified as a regionally significant viewshaft. The summary description notes that the view is important, as it affirms the close association of SH20 with a number of important volcanic cones and remnants – from Mt Albert to Mangere Mountain and Crater Hill. The sequence of views of the volcanic features highlight some of the 'key geophysical 'building blocks' of Auckland's landscape.' It also identifies Puketāpapa as a landmark that helps to locate the suburb of Mt Roskill.

3.13 The origin point of the second viewshaft (R02) is at the intersection of Dominion Road and Mt Albert Road at the southern end of the Mt Roskill shopping centre. It is also identified as a regionally significant viewshaft. The summary description notes that this relatively close-up view of Puketāpapa clearly reveals its volcanic form and affirms the sense of connection between the Maunga and the shopping centre, reinforcing its significance in relation to the identity of the centre and its surrounding suburban area. The description also notes that the proximity to the Maunga also helps to expose some of its cultural and natural heritage characteristics.

Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan

3.14 The Authority has developed the Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan (the **IMP**) to set the foundations for how the Tūpuna Maunga are valued, protected, restored, enhanced, and managed in the future.[6]

3.15 The IMP identifies the values of the Maunga and pathways for their protection, restoration, and enhancement. The values identified are: wairuatanga/spiritual value; mana aoturoa/cultural and heritage value; takotoranga whenua/landscape value; mauri

[6] Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Integrated Management Plan, Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Authority, 2016

punaha hauropi/ecological and biodiversity value; mana hononga tangata/living connection value; whai rawa whakauka/economic/commercial value; and mana whai a rehia/recreational value.

4 Assessment of Effects

4.1 A full description of the proposed tree removal is set out in the AEE. In summary, the proposal includes the removal of 160 exotic specimens. Various removal methods (as set out in the Arborlab report) are proposed, including a combination of using crane, manual, MEWP, and excavator. Figure 4 of the report identifies the location of trees to be removed, together with the removal methods for different areas. Due to access difficulties, the mature exotic vegetation on the southern flanks are not proposed for removal as part of this resource consent application.

4.2 The existing carpark close to Dominion Road will be used as a processing area but generally processing operations will be mobile and follow areas where the machinery is being used to remove trees..

4.3 Two mature Pohutukawa trees located adjacent to the vehicle accessways (Trees 194 and 249) also require trimming.

4.4 The proposal also includes a number of planting measures to enhance the ecological, cultural and amenity values of the Maunga. These are set out in the Puketāpapa-Pukewiwi / Mt Roskill Planting Plan 2019 by Te Ngahere (dated 11th October 2019) (the **Planting Plan**). The Planting Plan identifies opportunities for planting where archaeological constraints allow. The proposed planting includes:

- Areas of Pā harakeke planting;
- Amenity plantings, along the roadside, in the area between the accessway and the SH20 corridor, on the tihi;
- Areas of buffer planting adjacent to neighbouring residential properties;
- Proposals for planting of stumps of removed trees.

4.5 The areas of planting are depicted in Figures 1 and 2 of the report.

Landscape Effects

4.6 Puketāpapa is not one of the higher volcanic cones in the Auckland field. However, it does have some prominence in the local urban landscape. As noted in the Viewpoint evaluation contained in Appendix 20 of the AUP, it has a strong association and contributes to the identity of the surrounding neighbourhood. While the distinctive volcanic form has a considerable presence in the landscape, the mature and dense

vegetation on portions of the flanks, particularly the north to north-western quadrant and the southern flanks, partially obscure the pattern of the natural landform. Exotic species are at odds with natural vegetation patterns. In particular, the Himalayan Cedars (Cedrus deodara) have a dark, sculptural form that dominates the volcanic feature.

4.7 The formal planting of Phoenix Palm trees on the lower northern flanks is also prominent and at odds with the natural landform and associated vegetation patterns.

4.8 The removal of the exotic vegetation from the northern and north-eastern flanks of the Maunga will, in part, restore its integrity and enable its mana to be better recognised and uplifted. This is consistent with the values and pathways set out in the IMP. There is also a range of native vegetation, including some very mature, large specimens, present on the flanks of the Maunga. The retention of this vegetation will reduce the perceived extent of scarring as the exotic vegetation is removed and will maintain a vegetated aspect to the Maunga. The removal of areas of exotic vegetation will also provide a better growing environment for the existing native specimens.

4.9 The extent of revegetation of the Maunga is limited by archaeological sensitivities. As set out in the Planting Plan, additional amenity tree planting is proposed in the vicinity of the existing Phoenix Palms. In my opinion, as these trees mature, they will make a positive contribution to the open space amenity in this area and will provide suitable mitigation for the loss of the distinctive avenue planting, without maturing to a scale that will obscure the volcanic landform. The native species will be more appropriate in relation to the natural landscape values and will complement the existing native vegetation in the area. Other areas of mixed, low native planting will also further contribute to the natural landscape values of the Maunga and assist to provide a transition to the surrounding urban elements of residential properties and the SH corridor.

4.10 Overall, it is concluded that the proposed removal of exotic vegetation, together with enhancement planting, will result in positive landscape effects.

Visual Effects

4.11 Visual effects are somewhat different from many other environmental factors because their assessment requires information on perceptions as well as on resources. Because visual experience is a combination of physical stimulus and psychological response, some aspects of visual effects are undeniably subjective. To understand and assess the visual effects of a project, we must therefore understand not only the project and its context, but also anticipate the probable responses of the people who will see it.

4.12 This assessment analyses the potential visual effects that may be generated by the proposal and is based on:

- The background and context within which the vegetation removal will be viewed;
- The proportion of the proposed removal that will be visible, determined by the observer's position relative to the area subject to change being viewed;
- The number and type of viewers and their location in relation to the site; and
- The ability to mitigate any identified adverse landscape and visual effects.

4.13 The magnitude of visual change resulting from the proposal will vary considerably for the different groups that comprise the viewing audience. Whether a view is transient or static influences the magnitude of change as well. While the magnitude of visual change may be high, the effect of that change may be viewed as positive or adverse depending on the perceptions of the viewer.

4.14 Puketāpapa, with its attendant vegetation comprising both exotic and native species, is a relatively prominent landmark in the local urban landscape. The proposed removal of the exotic vegetation will be apparent from a range of locations. The primary viewing audience will comprise four groups:

- Visitors to Puketāpapa;
- Users of the surrounding street network;
- Users of the surrounding open space network; and
- Residents and users of surrounding residential, commercial and community-use properties.

Visitors to Puketāpapa

4.15 Visitors to Puketāpapa will have the most direct experience of the removal of vegetation. Most people enter the Reserve from the vehicular entrance off Dominion Road. The entrance area is marked by large, mature native specimens. The removal of exotic trees along the vehicular accessway and the avenue of palm trees will be readily apparent. However, a strong, vegetated quality will be maintained. As it matures, I consider the proposed revegetation planting will effectively mitigate the loss of amenity in the area immediately to the north of the accessway. In the longer term, the proposed planting will better contribute to the character and sense of place of the environment.

4.16 Travelling further up the Maunga, the removal of exotic vegetation will create a more open environment that will open up views to the wider landscape and provide a visual

connection to other Maunga in the volcanic field. The tihi currently contains little vegetation, and appreciation of the volcanic landscape will be little altered in this area.

4.17 It is concluded that the visual change experienced by those visiting the Maunga will be very high; and the visual effect of the vegetation removal, together with the enhancement planting will be very low adverse to positive.

Users of the surrounding street network

4.18 While some glimpses of the Maunga and its attendant vegetation can be obtained from mostly elevated locations in the wider environment, it is primarily viewed from the local neighbourhood street network. For those travelling along streets, including those walking, cycling and driving, views are transient. The Maunga and its attendant vegetation is variously viewed with a foreground of suburban residential development and vegetation, both within private properties and streets. From locations where the Maunga can be viewed, such as from the Mt Roskill shopping centre along Dominion Road and the intersection with Mt Albert Road (the viewpoint location of Protected Viewshaft R02, identified in the AUP), the collection of vegetation on the Maunga somewhat obscures the underlying volcanic landform. The removal of the exotic vegetation will reinstate the primacy of the landform and allow a better appreciation of it (see Attachment 4, Photograph 3). While the Phoenix Palm trees are a distinctive vegetative feature on the lower flanks of the Maunga, their exotic sculptural form is somewhat at odds with the natural and cultural values of the volcanic feature. Replacement planting in this area will provide a more visually appropriate vegetated aspect in this area without obscuring the natural qualities of the Maunga. Mt Albert Road runs along a ridgeline and the Maunga can be variously viewed when travelling along the corridor and from elevated areas of streets that run down to the south from this corridor (see Attachment 5, Photograph 4). From these locations, the Maunga rises above the foreground of the suburban landscape. The removal of exotic vegetation will better reveal the profile of the volcanic landform that provides such a distinctive contrast and feature in the suburban environment.

4.19 SH20 carries large volumes of traffic and so this transport corridor represents a large viewing audience. As a high-speed environment, views are fleeting. However, the importance of the visual prominence of the Maunga as part of the volcanic field when viewed from SH20 is set out in the description of the Protected Viewshaft R01 and summarised in Section 3 above. As with the views from Dominion Road and Mt Albert Road, the removal of the exotic vegetation will reinstate the primacy of the landform, allowing a better appreciation of it, particularly when travelling from the east. The retention of mature native specimens will maintain a vegetated quality to the Maunga. The reduced vegetation cover, with the retention of indigenous cover, will better complement the natural and cultural values of the Maunga. A pedestrian overbridge to the east of the Maunga provides an elevated view. From here, there will be some improvement to the northern profile of the volcanic form. However, the exotic vegetation on the southern flanks will continue to obscure the landform (see Attachment 6, Photograph 5).

4.20 From the local street network in the residential neighbourhood to the northwest through to south of the Maunga, transient views are variously obtained between dwellings and vegetation in the foreground. The removal of large, dense exotic trees will improve the visual connection with the volcanic landscape feature. Due to technical constraints, a stand of trees on the steep south-eastern flanks will be retained at this stage. As one travels through the local street network further to the east (for example along Youth Street into Dominion Road), the visual change experienced will be reduced.

4.21 It is concluded that while the visual change resulting from the vegetation removal will be high from a number of locations in the surrounding street network, the effects of that change will range from very low adverse to positive.

Users of the open space network

4.22 The wider Mt Roskill area has an extensive open space network. However, the Maunga is not highly visible from many locations in the network. Glimpses of the Maunga and its attendant vegetation can be obtained from a number of local parks in the immediately surrounding neighbourhood (see Attachment 7, Photograph 6). From these locations, it is seen in the context of other vegetation and established residential development in the foreground. When viewed from locations to the north and northeast of the Maunga, the removal of exotic vegetation will better reveal the landform of the volcanic feature and enhance its landmark function in the wider landscape.

4.23 In my opinion, the magnitude of visual change when viewed from parts of the open space network will be low to moderate; and the resulting effect of that change will be positive.

Residents and users of surrounding residential, commercial, and community-use properties

4.24 The viewing distance from the Maunga and the obstruction of views by intervening buildings and vegetation varies considerably for residents and users of surrounding residential, commercial and community-use properties.

4.25 A number of residential properties immediately adjoin the Site. Large exotic trees are located in close proximity and overhang the boundary of 55 and 59c Roseman Avenue. In my opinion, the removal of these trees will improve the outlook from these properties and provide an improved visual connection with the Maunga. Similarly for other dwellings in the wider residential neighbourhood to the west, the removal of vegetation will result in considerable visual change; but that change will result in an improved visual appreciation of the volcanic landform.

4.26 For residents in the residential neighbourhood on the northern side of SH20, occupiers of more elevated dwellings will readily perceive the visual change resulting from the vegetation removal. As for those travelling on the street network in this area, the change will result in an improved appreciation of the volcanic landform, with the

remaining mature native trees and proposed additional planting better complementing the natural and cultural values of the landscape feature.

4.27 It is concluded that the visual change will be high for a number of residents in the residential neighbourhood immediately to the northwest of the Maunga (around Roseman Avenue). In my opinion, the visual effects of the vegetation removal will be positive from this area. From more elevated locations in the residential neighbourhood to the north of SH20, the visual change will be moderate; and the resulting effects will also be positive.

4.28 Glimpses of the Maunga are obtained from the education hub to the northeast of the Maunga on Frost Road (particularly from the playing field). While this is a considerable distance from the Maunga, the vegetation will be readily apparent; and, as with other viewing locations, will result in an improved appreciation of the volcanic form. The retention of large, native specimen trees will maintain a vegetated quality, particularly around the lower flanks of the Maunga. In my opinion, the visual effect will be positive.

4.29 The wider environment also contains a range of industrial and commercial activities (e.g. along the Stoddard Road and Carr Road corridors and around the Dominion Road and Mt Albert Road intersection). The nature of these activities is less sensitive to change than residential activity. Glimpses of the Maunga will be variously obtained between other buildings and vegetation in the foreground. As with other groups that comprise the viewing audience, the removal of exotic vegetation will better reveal the volcanic form of the Maunga; and while the visual change will be low to moderate depending on viewing location, the effect of that change will be positive.

4.30 Overall, it is considered that the visual change experienced by viewers in this group will vary considerably depending on the viewing location and distance from the Maunga. The effect of the change experienced will be positive.

Short-Term Effects

4.31 The Arborlab report sets out the different methods proposed to remove the vegetation, including manual felling and crane-assisted dismantling. Structures such as platforms and cranes will introduce visual features that contrast with the natural character of the Maunga. However, their temporary use and their small size relative to the overall scale of the open space means their introduction will result in only very low adverse visual effects for a limited time frame. Processing will generally follow the felling around the Site. The carpark off Dominion Road will also be used as a processing area. For those using the reserve, the change in character in the vicinity of the processing areas may be perceived as adverse. However, their use will be for a very short duration only. Due to the short timeframe of the activity, it is considered that the adverse visual effects of this processing activity in various location on the Maunga will be very low.

4.32 Overall, it is concluded that the short-term visual effects will be very low adverse.

Summary of Visual Effects

4.33 Following is a summary of the magnitude of change and the resulting effect of that change when viewed by the various groups identified as comprising the viewing audience (see Appendix 1 for a list of factors that contribute to the magnitude of visual change and the effects arising from that change).

Magnitude of change: extreme, very high, high, moderate, low, very low, negligible.

Effect of change: very high adverse, high adverse, moderate adverse (more than minor), low adverse (minor), very low adverse (less than minor), negligible, positive.

Viewing Group	Magnitude of Change	Visual Effect	Notes
Visitors to Puketāpapa	**High**	**Very Low Adverse** through to P**ositive**	
Users of surrounding street network	**High** from a number of locations	**Very Low Adverse** through to P**ositive**	The transient nature of views reduces the sensitivity to change
Users of open space network	**Low** to **Moderate**	**Positive**	
Residents and users of surrounding residential and commercial properties	**Moderate** to **High** depending on location and distance	**Positive**	
Temporary effects	Moderate	**Very Low Adverse**	The short timeframe of the visual change reduces the sensitivity.

District Plan Objectives and Policies

4.34 As set out in Section 3 above, the AUP(OiP) sets out a detailed and clear policy framework that recognises the landscape, archaeological and cultural values of the volcanic features of the Auckland volcanic field; and seeks to protect and, where practicable, enhance these values. In my opinion, the proposal represents a practical measure to restore the landscape values of Puketāpapa-Pukewiwi. The removal of exotic vegetation will better reveal the distinctive form of the volcanic cone and evidence of former occupation by Mana Whenua.

4.35 In my opinion, the proposal is consistent with the overarching objectives contained in the Regional Policy Statement in relation to protecting and enhancing the visual, physical, and cultural values of the volcanic feature; and will enhance the landscape values of the Maunga, identified as an ONF. The existing exotic vegetation, particularly the large, dark and solid trees, dominates and is at odds with the Maunga's values, both natural and cultural. The removal of this exotic vegetation will better reveal the underlying landform. This will reinforce its character as a landscape feature in the local environment and will provide greater integrity for the natural landform together with its cultural associations. Rather than simply protect the values of the ONF (Obj. D10.2.1),

the proposal will restore and enhance the ONF (Obj. D10.2.3). The proposal is consistent with the supporting policies set out in Section D10.3.3, and 4, 5, and 7.

4.36 In relation to the Open Space – Conservation zone, it is considered that the proposal is consistent with the policy framework that also seeks to ensure that the natural, ecological, landscape, and Mana Whenua values of the zone are enhanced. In particular, the removal of exotic vegetation will restore the natural landscape values of the Maunga, supporting and assisting to re-establish the relationship of Mana Whenua and their culture and traditions to their ancestral lands. Proposed restoration planting will further contribute to the natural character of the volcanic feature. In these respects, the proposal is consistent with the direction provided in the IMP.

4.37 The proposal will improve the visual integrity of the volcanic feature when viewed from the two protected viewshafts: from SH20 (R01) and the intersection of Dominion Road and Mt Albert Road (R02).

4.38 Overall, it is concluded that the proposal will realise the outcomes sought by the policy framework in relation to landscape considerations as set out in various sections of the AUP(OiP).

5 Conclusions

5.1 The volcanic cones and associated features that comprise the Auckland Volcanic Field make a particular contribution to Auckland's distinctive character and sense of place. Puketāpapa is an important part of the volcanic field. It is a distinctive landscape feature in the local environment and makes a positive contribution to the local identity / sense of place.

5.2 Together with other maunga in the volcanic field, Puketāpapa has special value as a taonga for Mana Whenua. This is reflected in the transference of the Tūpuna Maunga to the Tūpuna Taonga Trust. The IMP clearly sets out the values and pathways for protecting and enhancing those values.

5.3 The assessment set out above finds that the proposal to remove exotic vegetation from the volcanic cone will result in positive landscape effects.

5.4 The assessment identifies four primary groups that comprise the viewing audience. The volcanic cone is a distinctive feature that has variable visibility from various locations in a relatively limited extent of the surrounding environment. The magnitude of visual change resulting from the exotic vegetation removal will vary considerably. The effect resulting from this change in many instances will be perceived as positive. From limited locations, the adverse effects may be perceived as very low adverse.

5.5 It is concluded that the proposal will realise the outcomes sought by the policy framework in relation to landscape considerations as set out in various sections of the AUP(OiP).

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Appendix 1

Factors informing Visual Assessment

Magnitude of Change

1. Geographical extent/proportion of view – from a small proportion of a wider view (low) to a high proportion of a view obtained (high).

2. Distance from viewer – far (low) to close (high).

3. Duration of view – transient and fleeting (low) to static (high).

4. Contrast between the proposal and the existing view from similar (low) to highly contrasting (high)

The assessment contained in Section 4 combines a consideration of these factors and the summary at the end of the section applies a 7-point scale of magnitude from negligible to extreme.

Effects of Change

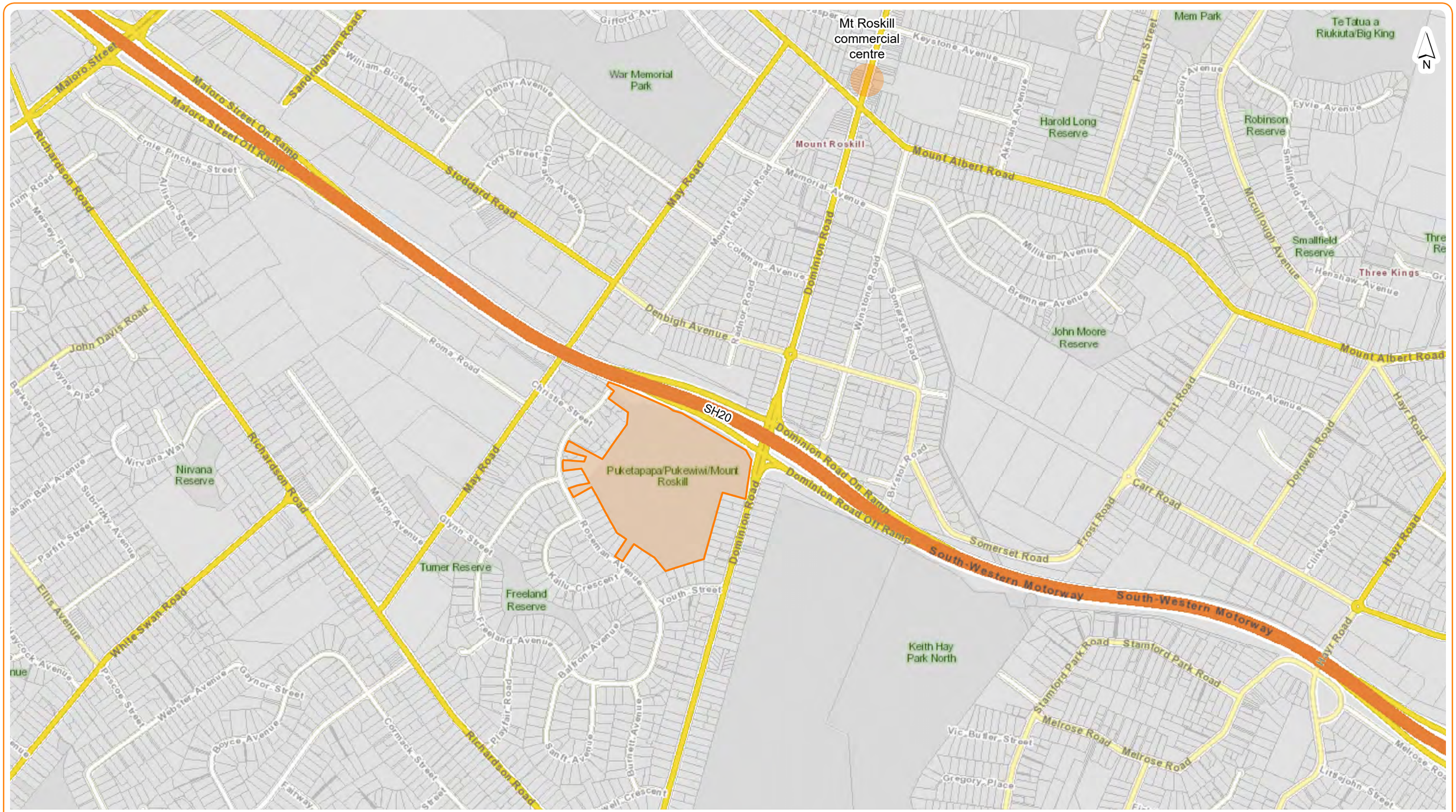
1. Sensitivity of view to change including its visual quality, and visual absorption capability.

2. Number of viewers affected by the change.

3. Characteristics of the viewing group. For example, residents and people visiting an area to enjoy its visual characteristics will likely be more affected by visual change than people passing through an area or working in an area.

4. Viewer's values and attitudes towards the proposed activity (this may be negative, benign or positive).

The assessment contained in Section 4 considers these factors in combination and the summary at the end of the section applies a 7-point scale from very high adverse to positive.



Source: Auckland Council GeoMaps https://geomapspublic.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/viewer/index.html
Scale @ A3 1:8,000

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The Site in its Wider Context
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LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS ASSESSMENT

ATTACHMENT 1

OCTOBER 2019

Source: Auckland Council GeoMaps https://geomapspublic.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/viewer/index.html
Scale @ A3 1:2,500

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The Site in its Immediate Context
Puketāpapa-Pukewiwi Restoration
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS ASSESSMENT

ATTACHMENT 2

OCTOBER 2019

PHOTOGRAPH 1: Vegetation at the Entrance to the Reserve

PHOTOGRAPH 2: Avenue of Phoenix Palms

PHOTOGRAPH 3: View towards Maunga from intersection of Dominion Road and Mt Albert Road (Mt Roskill Shopping Centre)

PHOTOGRAPH 4: View from May Road towards Maunga

PHOTOGRAPH 5: View towards Maunga from pedestrian over-bridge over SH20

PHOTOGRAPH 6: Looking towards Maunga from Walmsley Park