



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE □ URBAN DESIGN □ PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Landscape and Visual Assessment for Proposed Tree Removal Te Tātua-a- Riukiuta (Big King)

Prepared for:
The Tāpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority

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CONTENTS

Page No.

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. TUPUNA MAUNGA CONTEXT	2
3. SITE CHARACTER AND CONTEXT	3
4. THE PROPOSAL	8
5. STATUTORY CONTEXT	9
5.1 Auckland Unitary Plan (Part Operative)	9
5.2 Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan	11
6. ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS	11
6.1 Introduction	11
6.2 Biophysical effects (and landscape quality)	12
6.3 Landscape and natural character effects	13
6.4 Visual amenity	14
7. ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE AUP PROVISIONS	23
8. CONCLUSIONS	24

1. INTRODUCTION

Peake Design Ltd was requested by Anna M^cElrea on behalf of the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority to undertake an evaluation of the potential landscape and visual effects of proposed exotic vegetation removal at Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta (Big King).

Following the Ngā 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. The Maunga (mountains) are taonga (treasures). A key objective of the Tūpuna Taonga Trust 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.

In order to undertake the evaluation a site visit was made to the site and surrounding neighbourhood on several occasions in December 2018.

The assessment was based on the survey and tree removal methodology and report prepared by Treescape Arboriculture Consultants dated October 2018, and the Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta Planting Plan prepared by Te Ngāhere, dated 6th December 2018.

The purpose of the assessment is to evaluate how the proposed works will potentially affect the landscape and its character as well as the visual amenity of the local community.

The report describes the outcomes of the evaluation of landscape and visual effects, with reference to the objectives and policies of the Auckland Council Unitary Plan (Part Operative version).

2. TUPUNA MAUNGA CONTEXT

The Auckland Volcanic Field encompasses has an approximate 20km radius in central Auckland and contains about 50 volcanoes¹ (see Attachment 3). 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.¹

The Tūpuna Maunga are among the most significant spiritual, cultural, historical, archaeological and geological landscapes in the Auckland region. The Tūpuna Maunga are sacred to mana whenua as taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down the generations).²

Together with Auckland's three harbours – the Waitemata, Manukau and Kaipara – its cone field is unquestionably the Region's most distinctive and iconic feature. Once comprising close to 60 cones and craters, this field has been eroded over the last 160 years by quarrying and urban development to the point where just nine maunga – Mt Eden / Maungawhau, Mt Hobson / Ohinerangi, Mt Saint John / Te Kopuke, One Tree Hill / Maungakiekie, Mt Wellington / Maungarei, Mt Albert / Owairaka, Mt Roskill / Puketapapa,

¹ B Hayward et al "Volcanoes of Auckland", 2011

² Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Integrated Management Plan, 2016

and (more peripherally) Mangere Mountain – are identified as exemplars of a volcanic resource that was once both much more prominent and pervasive than is now the case.³

Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta (Big King) is the sole remnant of the original cone complex that comprised three large cones (Three Kings).

The multiple values of the cone field have long been recognised and are clearly referenced in the current ARPS description of the maunga (Part 6.2.6):

“The volcanic cones are iconic features of Auckland. They give the Region its unique character and identity and set this urban area apart from other cities in the world.

Their contribution to the character of the Region arises not only from their individual identities as outstanding natural features, but also from their number and juxtaposition within the urban landscape. They provide islands of naturalness, of open space and of green that interact with an urban landscape which continues to change as a result of urban growth and development.

Many views of the cones are inextricably linked with images of Auckland. For example, Maungauika (North Head), Takarunga (Mt Victoria), Rangitoto, Motukorea (Browns Island) and Te Pane O Mataaho (Mangere Mountain) and Maungarei (Mt Wellington) are key markers of Auckland’s maritime setting. Other volcanic cones such as Pukekaroro (Auckland Domain), Maungawhau (Mt Eden), Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill), Koheraunui (Big King of Three Kings), Owairaka (Mt Albert), Puketapapa (Mt Roskill), Te Kopuke (Mt St John), Remuwhera (Mt Hobson) and Otahuhu (Mt Richmond) are physical markers and identifiers at both the regional and local level. They are outstanding natural features and have a landscape value that arises from their combination of naturalness within an urban environment and their cultural associations.⁴

3. SITE CHARACTER AND CONTEXT

The Three Kings area is a volcanic eruptive centre comprised of a cluster of scoria mounds and some basalt flow rock, contained within an approximately 1km diameter explosion crater. Basalt also flowed out of this crater to the north and down the valley through Western Springs to terminate as Meola Reef.

Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta has been described as probably the most complex volcano in the Auckland volcanic field, consisting of five significant scoria cones and about a dozen smaller scoria mounds, sitting inside a large explosion crater. Along the edge of the crater to the south runs Mount Albert Road, with landscape Road to the north. At 800 metres across and nearly 200 metres deep, the explosion crater, which was caused by the initial eruption, is the largest in Auckland⁵.

Four of the scoria cones have been quarried away, leaving only Koheraunui, the second highest, as the most visible and recognisable remnant.

³ Stephen Brown evidence to The Unitary Plan Independent Hearings Panel, 25 May 2015

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Hayward, Bruce W.; Murdoch, Graeme; Maitland, Gordon, Volcanoes of Auckland: The Essential Guide. Auckland University Press, 2011



Figure 1 John Kinder watercolour of The Three Kings (Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, gift of Harry Kinder, 1937)



Figure 2 Three Kings with terraced Koheraunui and Mt Eden Road in foreground (Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 7-A4053)

At 133m it remains today largely because of the water reservoir that was built on its summit at the beginning of the 20th century. The reservoir is below the hydraulic grade of the area and is therefore maintained as an emergency supply reservoir only.

The area has been modified by quarrying since the mid 1800s when the Winstone Brothers started their horse and cart deliveries of coal from the Queen Street wharf. Winstone Ltd purchased the site in 1922 with a number of quarries being developed in the area.

Quarry activity to the north of the current Winstone Aggregates site (northeast of the maunga) ceased about 25 years ago, and the area was subsequently filled and rehabilitated. It now has a mix of light industrial and residential development. To the south

TE TĀTUA-A-RIUKIUTA TREE REMOVAL

and southwest is previously quarried reserve land. Last quarried under the direction of the Mt Roskill Borough Council, it ceased in the mid 1970s with a builder's supply yard operating from the site until 1997. Subsequently, and until recently it was all retained as recreational open space (and held as reserves under the Reserves Act).

In 2011 the remaining quarry area (to the southeast of the maunga) became a cleanfill site and in 2018 Council approved a plan change for a mix of residential development and open space (Figure 3) that included a land swap for the Reserve land.

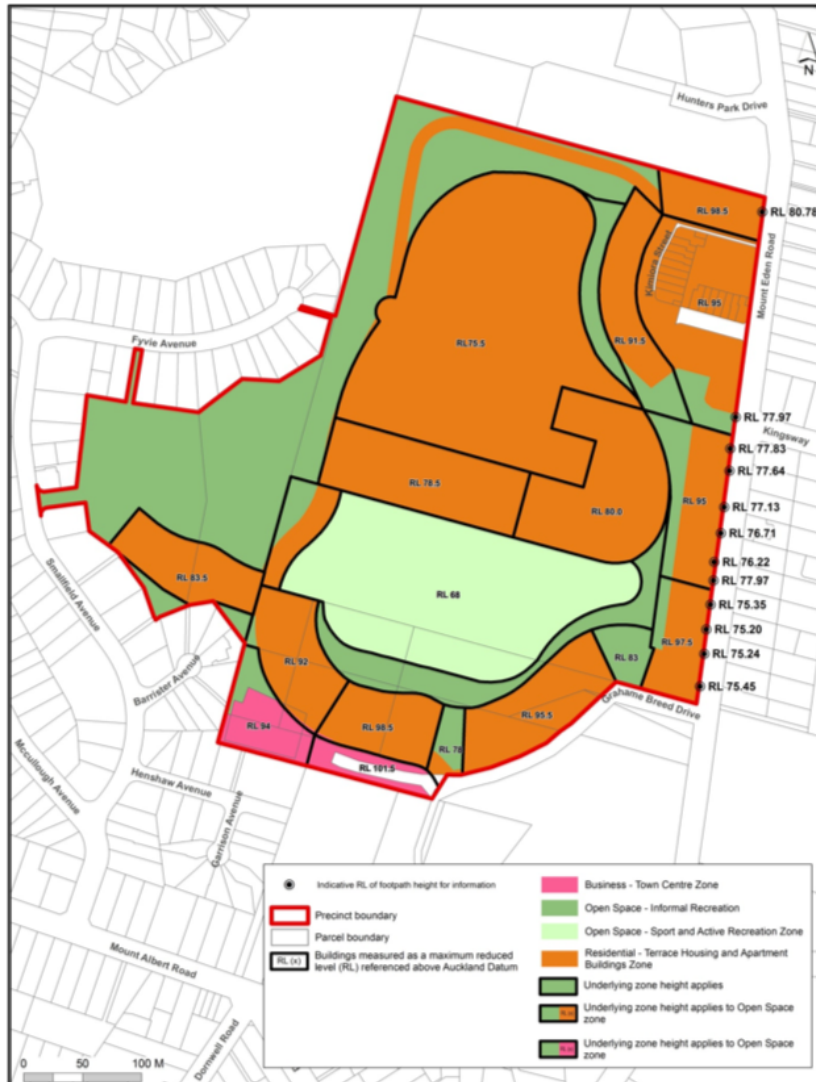


Figure 3 Precinct Plan 2, Maximum Building Height (AUP I344.10.2)

TE TĀTUA-A-RIUKIUTA TREE REMOVAL

The current form of the maunga and reserve reflects the changes over time, including its highly modified environment and significantly reduced area. Currently it comprises a vegetated hill to the north, with an elevated, flattened ridge leading to the main maunga including the tihi and water tower. There is a crater to the southwest of the tihi and two terraced areas of slightly different character in the western part of the site. Between the crater and the two terraced areas lies an open, level platform, which contains a Watercare subsurface reservoir (Figure 4).



Figure 4 Subject site

There is a mix of exotic and native vegetation scattered across the reserve and maunga, with the highest concentration on the higher areas.

TE TĀTUA-A-RIUKIUTA TREE REMOVAL

Generally, there is a healthy mix of native species, predominantly consisting of Pohutukawa (30%) with smaller numbers of Kanuka, Mahoe, Puriri and Karo) accounting for 440 trees in the survey area and 69% of the total tree population.

A total of 197 other trees (including 60 Cherry, 28 Privet and 20 Acmena/Lillypilly) are also represented. The greatest concentrations of exotics are in the northern area, and on the main maunga (Figure 5). The most notable of the exotics are a group of Lillypilly.⁶

Further information on the existing vegetation is provided in the report prepared by Treescape.

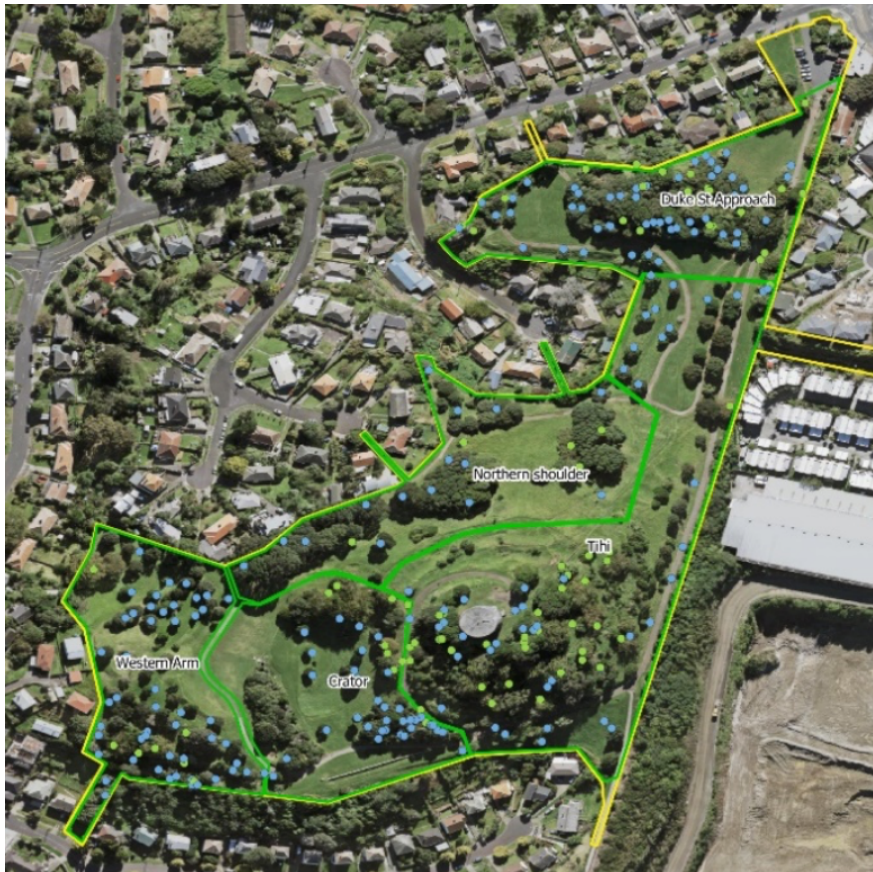


Figure 5 Distribution of natives (blue) and exotic (green) trees

Excepting the quarry areas to the east described above, surrounding development comprises residential state housing built in the 1940s. Suburban in form, houses back on to the site, with pedestrian accessways connecting with streets and cul de sacs. Generally,

⁶ Auckland's Remarkable Urban Forest, Mike D Wilcox, 2012

houses sit below the mountain, although a few are located on its flanks (refer to the attachment to this report).

Two regionally significant views have been identified to the mountain, both from Mt Eden Road. There is also a clear view along Mt Eden Road that provides a physical and visual connection between Maungawhau and Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta. In addition, it is somewhat prominent in closer views from Mt Albert Road to the south and Dominion Road to the west. Generally, however, the moderate height of the maunga reduces its visibility, especially compared with the other nearby cones.

4. THE PROPOSAL

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority are seeking consent for vegetation removal on Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta (Big King) to facilitate the restoration of the natural, spiritual and indigenous landscape of the maunga and to help restore and enhance of the mauri and wairua of their Tūpuna Maunga.

The proposal represents one of the first steps for the Tūpuna Maunga Authority in giving effect to their Integrated Management Plan (IMP) since the return of Ngā Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland's ancestral mountains) to 13 iwi and hapū of Auckland.

Native vegetation is one of the natural features of Ngā Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau that has diminished over many decades, replaced by an increasing number of exotic (non-native) specimens. Replanting and restoring traditional indigenous mana whenua flora and fauna on the maunga is a long term goal.

A key driver for the vegetation removal project is to preserve and enhance the authenticity and visual integrity of the maunga so that they are markers in the landscape, and their cultural and natural features are visually apparent (*extract from Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan*).

The vegetation programme at Koheraunui / Big King includes the removal of exotic trees from the maunga and restoration planting with indigenous species. Proposed tree removal will take a staged approach, with the final programme depending on factors such as methodologies and optimal seasons, costings, capacity of contractors, ground conditions and staging of other projects on the maunga.

In summary, the proposal will include:

- The removal of approximately 197 exotic trees from the maunga;
- Proposed restoration in two areas to the north and west of the site (Puriri broadleaf forest ecosystem);
- Low growing native vegetation (Pohuehue with selected species for diversity) between terrace formations;
- Amenity trees (Puriri) in selected locations as replacements for large individual exotics

The methodology for tree removal and restoration planting is described in the AEE and reports by Treescape and Te Ngahere. In addition to above, site management will include restoration of local species and habitats together with methods that prevent regeneration of exotic weed species.

Key matters for this assessment are:

- Identifying cultural landscape features for protection and enhancement
- Effects of visual change for user groups/community
- Managing visual amenity effects of tree removal

5. STATUTORY CONTEXT

With regard to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provisions, assessment of landscape and visual effects considers effects in terms of three interrelated landscape assessment categories: biophysical and landscape quality, visual amenity, and landscape character. The table below shows the relationship between the relevant RMA provisions and the assessment categories used in this report.

RMA Provision	Landscape and visual assessment category
s 6(a); Effects on the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands and rivers and their margins	Biophysical/Landscape Quality Landscape Character
6(b) Effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes	Biophysical/Landscape Quality Landscape Character Visual Amenity
s 7(c) Effects on amenity values; and	Visual amenity
s 7(f) Effects on the quality of the environment	Biophysical/Landscape Quality

For this proposal, the assessment is concerned with s6(b), s7(c) and s7(f) matters as well as effects on natural character. Natural character is a sub-set or component of landscape character and concerned with 'a measure of naturalness' in relation to the biophysical sensory components of landscape, and is consistent with the aims and values of the Tupuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan (see below).

5.1 Auckland Unitary Plan (Part Operative)

The site is zoned Open Space – Conservation in the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) (AUP), and is subject to a number of overlays, including: Outstanding Natural Feature overlay (ID222); Regionally Significant Volcanic Viewshafts and Height Sensitive Areas overlay (K1, K2); Historic Heritage overlay (extent of place – 1567). A small area in the northern part of the site is also covered by an SEA (Significant Ecological Area) overlay.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Section D9 sets out the objectives and policies relating to the Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) overlay.

Section D14 sets out the objectives and policies relating to the Volcanic viewshafts and Height Sensitive Areas overlay. The objectives are:

D14.2(1) The regionally significant views to and between Auckland's maunga are protected.

D14.2.(2) The locally significant views to Auckland's maunga are managed to maintain and enhance their visual character, identity and form of the maunga in the views.

These objectives are supported by a number of policies. Of particular relevance is Policy D14.3(2) which is to:

Manage subdivision, use and development to ensure that the overall contribution of the regionally significant volcanic maunga scheduled as outstanding natural features to the landscape of Auckland is maintained and where practicable enhanced, including by protecting physical and visual connections to and views between the volcanic maunga.

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.

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.

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)).

Section E15 relates to vegetation management and diversity, with objectives and policies focused on protecting and managing indigenous biological diversity and ecosystem services.

5.2 Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan

The Tūpuna Maunga (ancestral mountains) of Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) were held in crown ownership with various reserve classifications and managed by Auckland Council and, in some cases, the Department of Conservation. In 2014 the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act (2014) legislated a Collective deed of settlement. Under that Act, 14 Tūpuna Maunga were transferred to the 13 iwi/hapu of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau via the collective legal entity, the Tūpuna Taonga Trust. The Tūpuna Taonga Trust 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.⁷

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority has produced a single integrated management plan (IMP) to set the direction for their restoration, protection and management. The plan outlines the long-term vision for the Tūpuna Maunga and sets out values and pathways to achieve an integrated outcome for all the maunga.

Values provide the framework for the tika approach to caring and protecting the maunga, while the pathways elaborate on and give tangible expression to the values. These form guiding principles and objectives that set the direction the Tūpuna Maunga Authority proposes for protecting and caring for the maunga and they provide a framework for future decision-making.

Relevant values are identified as:

- Mana Aotūra/Cultural and heritage
- Takotoranga Whenua/Landscape
- Mauri Pūnaha Hauropi/Ecology and biodiversity
- Mana Whai a Rēhia/Recreational.

6. ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

6.1 Introduction

Section 3.1 of this report sets out the landscape assessment categories and their relationship with the relevant RMA provisions. The categories combine to create the relationship between a

⁷ Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Integrated Management Plan, Tūpuna Maunga o Tamaki Makaurau Authority, 2016

development (or proposed change) and its landscape context or setting, which is directly responsible for the impacts of any proposed development/change.

In this regard, there are three main sets of values that can generally be attributed to the setting. These are:

1. the degree of builtness or naturalness of the surrounding landscape
2. the landscape vulnerability or fragility of the environment to absorb development or change, and
3. the nature of the development itself

The first two define the “fitness” of the landscape to accept the new development/change, and allow decisions to be made regarding the impact of a proposal on the receiving environment, while the third defines how well equipped the design or nature of the development/change is to “fit” the landscape, taking account of physical and cultural values as well as from an aesthetic point of view. The landscape character and nature of the landform and vegetation also determines the available views of the development/change, depending on the exact location and disposition of elements.

With regard to the degree of naturalness, it is common practice to measure natural character on a continuum from modified to pristine, using a 7-point scale, although this is less useful in an urban environment where the environment has been significantly modified. As part of the Unitary Plan review, however, a review of the regional and district plan policy statements and rules in relation to natural landscapes, natural character, volcanic viewshafts and natural features was carried out, where areas having very important landscape and natural character values were identified as Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs), High Natural Character (HNC) and Outstanding Natural Character (ONC) areas.

The site was not identified as one of these areas. Nevertheless, the site was identified as an ONF where natural characteristics and qualities contribute to its values and may include:

- natural elements, processes and patterns;
- biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects;
- experiential and sensory attributes.

Potential adverse effects therefore relate to the magnitude of change to abiotic and biotic elements, processes and patterns, as well as the consequential experiential and aesthetic changes arising from the proposed vegetation removal and replanting.

6.2 Biophysical effects (and landscape quality)

The assessment of biophysical effects considers the extent and significance of modifications to landform, waterbodies and vegetation, and in particular any landscape features identified with regional or local significance.

The scale for assessing biophysical change used is set out below:

Extreme - Loss of key feature/attributes

Very high - Fundamental alteration to key feature/attributes of the site/neighbourhood

High – Major alteration to key feature/attributes of the site/neighbourhood

Moderate – Noticeable alteration to key feature/attributes (partially changed)

Low - Minor change to landscape, with no noticeable change to key feature/attribute (i.e. similar to before)

Very low - Slight change, with no change to any key feature/attribute and change barely distinguishable

Negligible - No discernible change

The mountain is identified as an ONF and covered by a Height Sensitive Areas overlay. It also has an SEA overlay over a small part of the site, which is south of the Duke Street entrance. As a result, it is considered to have high landscape quality with key features and attributes that are sensitive to change.

In addition, due to the removal of most of the mountain, the remaining part is arguably of significant value. Conversely, however, as the mountain has been considerably modified, (as described in Section 3 of this report and shown in Figures 1 and 2) none of the vegetation within the site is original - so that all the vegetation proposed to be removed has been planted relatively recently.

Furthermore, restoring the site to a more natural state represents good sustainable management, which is reflected in the integrated management that seeks the protection, restoration, and enhancement on each Tūpuna Maunga. This includes restoring the physical and cultural landscape.

Generally, the profile of the maunga and its landform will remain unaffected by the proposal, with limited physical works or change, so that it is considered that the effects of biophysical change will be low. Trees to be removed are mainly scattered amongst existing native vegetation, and the quality and values of the landscape will be enhanced with new planting. Although approximately one third of the vegetation cover will be removed, the methods used to effect change will minimise physical effects, and enable better management and protection of existing natural and cultural elements.

Overall, the final outcome will result in positive effects on key features and attributes (ONF/ landscape quality) through their protection and enhancement, including protecting the terraces, and reinstating indigenous vegetation.

Biophysical effects are therefore rated low adverse in the short term (during vegetation removal) and positive following vegetation removal and restoration.

6.3 Landscape and natural character effects

Landscape character is the distinctive combination of landscape attributes that gives an area its identity, and is derived from a combination of landform, land cover and land use. The effects on landscape character relate to changes in land use, (new or different activities); changes to existing patterns and elements in the landscape such as vegetation, waterbodies, landform, and building patterns; and the introduction of new elements and patterns including structures and paving and the various associated processes such as earthworks.

Natural character is discussed in section 6.1 above and relates to the natural qualities and features of an area (as opposed to artificial features such as roads and buildings). It may also be linked to landscape quality, as there is a strong relationship between s6a and s6b of the RMA in relation to natural character.

The scale used to determine landscape character change is set out below.

Extreme - Significant change affecting the overall landscape character

Very high - Fundamental alteration to key features/ attributes, character largely changed (with little ability to mitigate effects)

High - Alteration to several key elements or features/ attributes, major change to character and composition.

Moderate - Readily noticeable alteration to key element/s, feature/s or attribute/s, with character and composition partially changed

Low – Small amount of change to underlying character and composition, similar to before

Very low - Very slight change to landscape character, change barely distinguishable

Negligible - No discernible change of character

As noted for biophysical change above, the proposed vegetation removal will result in short term adverse impacts with minor changes to the landscape, but changes to key features/attributes will not be noticeable or will result in small amounts of change. For example, a gap in vegetation cover may occur as a result of the removal of a large tree or group of trees, but the larger areas of native vegetation and more noticeable areas of vegetation (on upper areas around the water tank) will remain. As a consequence, although the site is sensitive to changes in landscape and natural character, the changes to the existing landscape patterns and character will be small in magnitude.

In addition, the removal of the exotic vegetation will restore the integrity of the maunga and enable its mana to be better acknowledged and recognised. This is consistent with the values and pathways set out in the IMP, while the proposed replacement of exotic planting with native restoration planting will also enhance the ecological and biodiversity value of the mountain, thus making a positive contribution to its landscape value.

Landscape character change is therefore rated low in the short term and positive in the longer term following vegetation removal and restoration.

6.4 Visual amenity

Visual amenity is a component of the overall amenity of a place and contributes to peoples' appreciation of the pleasantness and aesthetic coherence of the environment. This aspect considers the effects of the visual change to the environment and for the viewing audience.

Contributing factors that affect the relative magnitude of effect include:

- ▶ Physical catchment and character that would be exposed to visual change
- ▶ Nature of the audience who would experience that change
- ▶ Type/size of view (orientation; elevation; peripheral/central)
- ▶ Scale, type and intensity of change

The following scale has been adopted to categorise the potential impact of visual change and the degree to which that change is adverse.

Extreme - Proposal may dominate/ obscure views for large viewing audience.

Very high - Proposal is prominent and would be a focus of views for a large viewing audience or within close proximity of residences (e.g. 100m)

High - Proposal is likely to be a major element of view for a large number of people and/or be a focus of view for residents

Moderate - Proposal is likely to form a visible and recognizable new element within the overall scene

Low - Proposal is likely to be either a limited component of a wider scene, and/or make little difference to the overall scene (i.e. may be missed by casual observer)

Very low - Proposal will form a very limited component of the wider scene and/or be viewed from a considerable distance

Negligible - Proposal will not be identifiable within available views

As noted in Section 3, the mountain is a somewhat distinctive landscape feature within the local context but is not widely visible and is visually less prominent than other nearby cones. The description for the height Sensitive Area (HSA) in Appendix 20 of the AUP states:

No regionally significant views have been identified to The Big King / Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta, although The Big King remains reasonably prominent in views from Mt Eden Rd, to the north and east, as well as from part of Mt Albert Rd to the south. Local views to the cone are also quite limited, with housing across the flanks of the cone, together with the Winstones Aggregate quarry on its eastern side and pockets of vegetation limiting views to the cone. As a result, the proposed HSA is quite small: it is largely defined by those local streets that offer views to the Big King's crest and for the most part focuses on retaining a sense of connection between the cone and immediately surrounding areas – stretching as far as Mt Eden Rd and Mt Albert Rd. Even so, the proposed HSA boundaries along Parau St and Duke St still largely reflect where the cone remnants can be differentiated from the wider lava ridge created by the original Three Kings volcanoes – especially so in more distant views from the vicinity of Mt Albert Rd, Dominion Rd and when looking up Duke St near Duncumb St.

Despite the description above, two regionally significant views are identified on the planning maps and in the values assessments, both from Mt Eden Road to the north. Figure 6 (On the next page) shows the extent of the HSA.

These factors form the basis for the viewpoints selected to represent views for residents and users of the surrounding street network, and are shown on the viewpoint location plan in the attachment to this report.

Other categories of the potential viewing audience are identified as visitors to Koheraunui and users of the open space network.

Visitors to Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta and users of the open space network

Visitors to Te Tātua-a-Riukiuta are mainly pedestrians who use the reserve for recreational walking or to exercise dogs. The site may also be used as a connecting route between adjacent local streets, noting that there is a path that links the reserve with the Three Kings Reserve and shopping centre.

The most noticeable areas of tree removal for visitors will occur at the Duke Street entry and along the main path where a number of mature specimen trees are proposed to be removed, together with some mature weed trees. These trees have effectively created an attractive entry from the carpark and an avenue effect along the beginning of the path. The 2 conifers closest to the carpark are particularly noticeable and it is recommended that is recommended that new replacement amenity trees be planted at the entry (e.g. Puriri). It is not considered necessary or desirable to replace the other exotic specimen trees along the

path, as these reduce visibility into the reserve and may also have safety (CPTED) risks. A future review of amenity tree planting along the path may, however, be warranted as part of the interface treatment between the reserve and adjacent new development, once constructed.

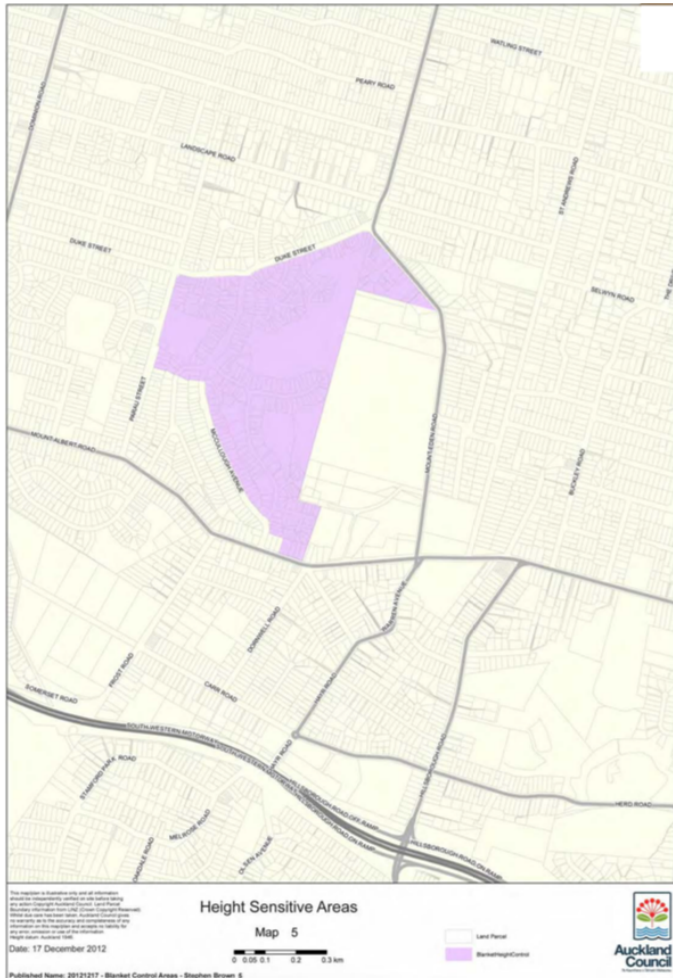


Figure 6 Height Sensitive Areas, Appendix 20 AUP

Generally, the majority of tree removal will occur within areas of established native trees so that the visual impacts will be limited. Exceptions are where there are established stands of exotics and taller trees that stand out from surrounding natives. Notable amongst these are:

- Erythrina and Eucalypts on the east side of the tihi
- Acmena/Lillipilly, Grevillea & Corymbia within the northern shoulder area
- Japanese cedar and Monterey cypress in and around the Duke St approach

The extent of visual change resulting from the vegetation removal is rated moderate, due to the number and location of trees proposed to be removed, although there are considerably more natives – 440 out of 637 total. A substantial number of Pohutukawa have been planted around the site, and are particularly noticeable along the main paths and around the western boundary. Native trees also occupy the highest area around the water tank. Elsewhere, however, there are informal tracks where groups of exotic trees and weedy areas are also noticeable, so that their removal will result in visual change.

Generally, however, the removal of the exotic vegetation will strengthen the natural character of the mountain, and reinstate the visual presence of the tihi and terraces, with the added opportunity to enhance the visitor experience. Although some the existing trees to be removed may be perceived by some viewers as providing some amenity, a proportion of the trees to be removed are unwanted or perceived pest plants, whose removal is positive.

In addition, the proposed restoration to native forest and grassland will also result in positive landscape and amenity effects, although some adverse visual effects may also be experienced where the water tank becomes more visually exposed.

It is concluded that the visual effects of the vegetation removal will be positive overall, with varying short term adverse effects. While proposed new planting will have positive effects on landscape quality and natural/landscape character, there will be limited beneficial visual effects due to the location and size of the works.

Residents and users of the surrounding street network

An analysis of representative views from surrounding streets is provided below. These are replicated in the attachment to this report where the vegetation to be removed is annotated. It should be noted, however, that these images are indicative only, as the not all the vegetation in the areas shown will be removed.



Figure 7 View from Mt Eden/Balmoral Road in intersection (Viewshaft K1)

Visual effects	Comments
Little noticeable change:	Distance – approx. 1.1km from entry. Trees around water tank prominent above upper terraced slopes. SEA occupies lower part of mountain above development in foreground. Some exotic trees will be removed in the view, most noticeably on the slopes to the left of the tihi, but the overall profile and pattern of landform and vegetation will be maintained.
Neutral effects	



Figure 8 View from intersection of Duke Street and Connolly Avenue

TE TĀTUA-A-RIUKIUTA TREE REMOVAL

Visual effects	Comments
Moderate-high short term change: Low effects	Distance – approx. 150m from entry and 300m from water tank. Small viewing audience. Acmena/Lillypilly prominent in middleground of view, merging with Pohutukawa between houses and reserve. Skirt of mixed native shrubs and exotic trees around the tank. Maunga partly screened by development on flanks in right of image and foreground vegetation. Visibility of maunga will be improved through tree removal and consequent views of open space.



Figure 9 View from intersection of Dally Terrace and Churches Avenue

Visual effects	Comments
Moderate short term change: Low-moderate effects	Distance – approx. 55m from entry and 205m from water tank. Small viewing audience. As above, the water tank may be more visually exposed with the removal of the exotic trees, but Pohutukawa in the middle ground will remain predominant. An increase in visible grass and terraces will arguably increase the appreciation of the volcanic profile and presence of the visual feature.



Figure 10 View from 27 Smallfield Avenue

Visual effects	Comments
Small amount of change: Very low effects	Distance – approx. 200m from entry and 370m from water tank. Small viewing audience. Houses are prominent in the foreground with a small part of the mountain visible above the roofs. Removal of taller exotics and outliers will make little change to the view.



Figure 11 View from 20 Duke Street

Visual effects	Comments
Small amount of perceived change: Neutral effects	Distance – approx. 700m from entry and 850m from water tank. Moderate viewing audience. Similar direction to Figure 9, the cone is seen in conjunction with the larger Monte Cecilia Park to the right. Due to distance, visual impacts of tree removal will be low. Remaining visible part may be better appreciated and defined.



Figure 12 View from 45 Landscape Road

Visual effects	Comments
Low-moderate short term change: Low adverse effects	Distance – approx. 200m from entry and 500m from water tank. Moderate viewing audience. Mountain is prominent in this elevated view. Removal of taller trees in middle of cone will modify the view but improve the legibility of the profile of the maunga. Similarly, removal of exotics on slope below water tank (left of image) will have visual impacts but potentially result in positive effects by defining the tihi and terraces.



Figure 13 View from intersection of Mt Eden Road and Roskill Way

Visual effects	Comments
Moderate-high short term change: Low adverse effects	Distance – approx. 150m from entry and 400m from water tank. Moderate-large viewing audience on Mt Eden Road although view is oblique up a short cul de sac. Mountain and terraces are prominent in this view. Removal of exotic vegetation (amongst mixed native shrubs) on the slopes below the water tank will create some visual change although impacts are expected to be low.



Figure 14 View from Mt Albert Road –Three Kings Shopping Centre

Visual effects	Comments
Small to moderate amount of change: Low adverse effects	Distance – approx. 600m from entry and 700m from water tank. Large viewing audience. Almost total vegetation cover of the mountain from this direction, with the water tank just visible above. Vegetation also extends below the mountain outside the site. Removal of exotic vegetation will create gaps and some visual change but impacts are expected to be low.

Generally, the visibility of the mountain for users of the surrounding street network will vary. In many places, it is fully or partially obscured or viewed with a foreground of residential or commercial development. Views for drivers are also generally short, oblique or transitory, due to the street pattern and movement of the viewer. Exceptions are views from Duke Road and Mt Eden Road where multiple views and longer views are available (although they are also from a greater distance).

From most viewpoints, there will be a small amount of change and the removal of vegetation will have limited visual effects. From closer viewpoints to the north and west, there will be moderate-low short term impacts arising from tree removal amongst native shrubs/scrub that may leave gaps and result in greater visual exposure of the water tank (although there are native trees along the top and bottom of the surrounding slopes). The effects of this removal of vegetation around the tihi need to be balanced against other positive effects, however, including revealing the pronounced terracing and form of the tihi.

Overall, it is concluded that the general vegetation pattern and visual profile of the maunga will be maintained., with some positive effects arising from the removal of exotics and weed species, together with new planting.

Visual effects for residents will be similar to those from surrounding streets. Although views from dwellings will be static so that there is potential for the magnitude of change to be perceived as greater, existing Pohutukawa will generally contain and screen views for many residents in the immediate area. Elsewhere, there will be little perceived change, with the visual effects of the removal of vegetation perceived as positive by some and negative by others, depending on whether they appreciate the difference between native and exotic vegetation.

It is concluded that the visual effects of the vegetation removal will range from positive through to low adverse, varying in relation to the sensitivity and location of the viewer.

Temporary effects

In addition to the short term effects arising from perceived visual change, the method of tree removal is also likely to create temporary short term effects. The methodology statement by Treescape sets out the different methods proposed to remove the vegetation, including manual removal, MEWP assisted removal, crane assisted removal, and helicopter assisted removal. Structures such as platforms, cranes, and helicopters will introduce visual features that contrast with the natural character of the maunga. However, their temporary use and small size relative to the overall scale of the mountain means their introduction will result in only low adverse visual effects for a limited time frame.

In addition to temporary operational effects, there will be temporary landscape and visual effects from the retention of tree stumps. Such effects will be minimised as far as possible, by limiting their height, however, and they are expected to be screened by grass/planting after a short time.

Antony Yates 16/1/2019 11:05 AM

Comment [1]: Can we mention stumps here? These will generally be 300mm - 400mm high and whilst creating a temporary visual effect these will rot away over a period of around 5 years, be disguised by grass and spread over the large area of the site.

7. ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE AUP PROVISIONS

As set out in Section 5, the AUP sets out a detailed and clear policy framework that recognises the landscape values of the volcanic features of the Auckland volcanic field and seeks to protect and, where practicable, enhance these values. The Integrated Management Plan is also focused on restoring and enhancing these values, while the project represents their practical execution.

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. Together with the removal of vegetation that is at odds with the values of the mountain, restoration planting will further enhance the landscape values of the ONF.

The proposal is also consistent with the policy framework relating to volcanic viewshafts. While there will be no impacts arising from subdivision, use or development that could encroach into views and erode their significance, proposed vegetation removal has the potential to modify the view, or detract from the values of the view. For the two protected viewshafts (V1 and V2), however it is considered that the values and attributes are protected, due to:

- Vegetation removal will enable grass sward and signs of maori occupation to be more visible and legible
- Visual prominence of the cone (and water tank) as landmarks may be increased by removing trees that overtop or screen them, elevating their visual presence

It is also acknowledged that visual connections between cones are important, and the attachment to this report illustrates views from Puketepapa and Maungawhau. From these locations, the maunga and surrounds appear as a gentle hill topped with a notable group of trees above which the tank is barely discernible. From Maungawhau, an expanse of grass is also visible, that better defines the lower and upper areas. These attributes will be

maintained following tree removal, and it is not expected that there will be any noticeable visual change. Overall, the removal of incongruous vegetation will improve the visual integrity of the volcanic feature, which in turn will enhance the contribution the volcanic feature makes to the landscape of Auckland.

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 and the limited extent of restoration planting will restore the landscape values of the maunga, and contribute to re-establishing cultural landscape values by supporting the relationship of Mana Whenua to their ancestral lands. In this respect, the proposal is consistent with the direction provided in the IMP.

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.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The description of the existing landscape character and context shows that Koheraunui is part of the region's most distinctive and iconic features that has been eroded by quarrying and urban development, together with modification by new plantings and structures.

As part of the Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan it is proposed to remove exotic vegetation on the maunga in order to preserve and enhance their authenticity and visual integrity - so that they are markers in the landscape, and their cultural and natural features are visually apparent.

The assessment of landscape and visual effects has determined that the proposal to remove exotic vegetation from the volcanic cone, together with limited native restoration planting, will result in positive effects with regard to biophysical change and landscape quality as well as landscape and natural character.

The assessment of visual effects determined that the extent of visual change resulting from the vegetation removal will range from small to moderate-high, mainly due to the location and number/size of trees proposed to be removed. There will be localised changes to vegetation patterns that will be noticeable in some areas, but the overall pattern of vegetation and profile of the maunga will not be changed as a result of the proposal.

The assessment identified that the mountain is a distinctive landscape feature within the residential context and but its visibility is limited, especially in relation to local views. Two regionally significant views are identified in the AUP, both from Mt Eden Road to the north.

The assessment found that the visual effects of the vegetation removal will be positive overall, with varying short term adverse effects. While proposed new planting would have positive effects on landscape quality and natural/landscape character, it would provide limited beneficial visual effects due to the discrete location and size of the works.

It noted that, from most viewpoints, there would be a small amount of change and the removal of vegetation would have limited visual effects. From closer viewpoints to the north and west, there would be moderate-low short term impacts arising from tree removal amongst native shrubs/scrub that may leave gaps and result in greater visual exposure of the water tank. Overall, however, this needs to be balanced by the positive effects arising

TE TĀTUA-A-RIUKIUTA TREE REMOVAL

from the improved visibility of the terraces and more pronounced tihi form as well as the desirability of retaining views to the water tank as a landmark feature.

To conclude, it is considered that the assessment of landscape and visual effects shows 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.

Sally Peake
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