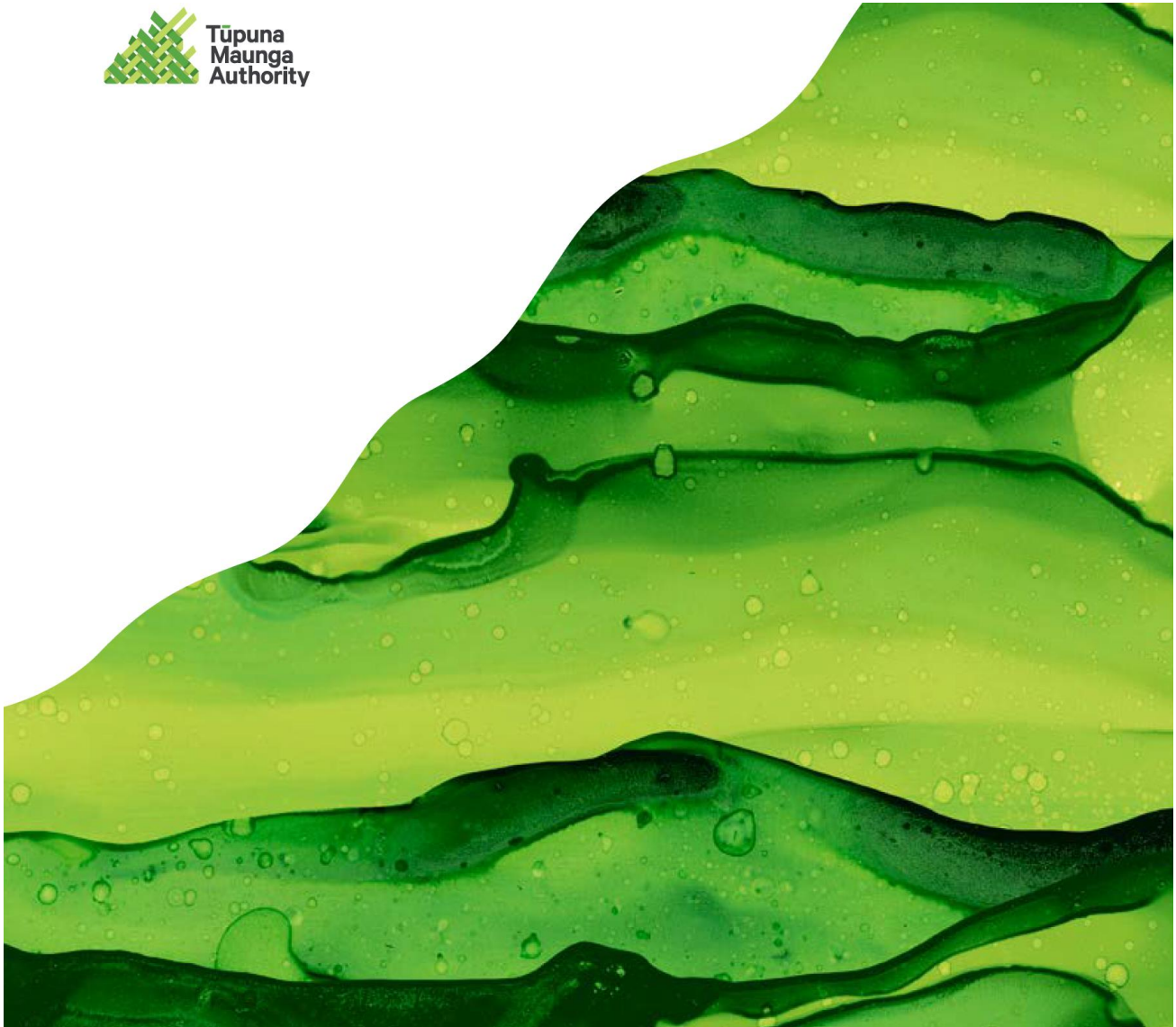


TŪPUNA MAUNGA AUTHORITY

Ōhuitarangi / Pigeon Mountain - Vegetation restoration and
exotic vegetation removal works

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
STATUTORY ASSESSMENT



Prepared by Richmond Planning Limited
For Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority
Date December 2018

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This application for resource consent is made by Auckland Council on behalf of the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority (**Authority**), who has governance and administration of 14 Tūpuna Maunga in the Auckland region.¹
- 1.2 The Authority has a revegetation programme that contributes to the restoration of the natural, spiritual and indigenous landscape of the Tūpuna Maunga and restoration and enhancement of the mauri and wairua of the Tūpuna Maunga. This programme gives effect to the Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan. The first stage of this programme was for Maungarei / Mt Wellington and implementation commenced in July 2018.
- 1.3 Included in the next stage of the programme is the removal of exotic vegetation and native revegetation on Ōhūiarangi/Pigeon Mountain (**Ōhūiarangi**).
- 1.4 This assessment of environmental effects and statutory assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Fourth Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) and corresponds with the scale and significance of the effects that the proposed activity may have on the environment. It concludes that the activity has the potential to have less than minor adverse effects on vegetation and subject to specific measures that form part of the application, there are no adverse effects on archaeology and the outstanding natural feature. Positive effects will result from the activity including improved ecology, amenity and opening of viewshafts between the Tūpuna Maunga. Matters of relevance under the RMA have been considered, and the conclusion is that the application may be granted on a non-notified basis, subject to conditions.

2. APPLICANT AND PROPERTY DETAILS

Table 1: Applicant and address for service

Applicant	Auckland Council
Address for service	Jodie Mitchell Richmond Planning Limited PO Box 25734 St Heliers Auckland 1740
Name and address for fees	Anna M ^c Elrea Tūpuna Maunga Authority c/- Auckland Council Private Bag 92300 Auckland 1141

¹ The Tūpuna Maunga Authority is the statutory authority established under Part 3 of the Tāmaki Collective Redress Act.

Owner of land	Tūpuna Taonga Trust Northern edge - Crown ownership with administration of transferred to Tūpuna Maunga Authority under the Tāmaki Collective Redress Act. ²
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Table 2: Property details

Tūpuna Maunga	Ōhūiarangi
Address	68R Pigeon Mountain Road Half Moon Bay Auckland 2021
Legal description	3.2314 hectares Part Allotment 18 Section 5 small farms near Howick 1.0358 hectares Part Allotment 22 Section 5 small farms near Howick 3.4035 hectares Section 5 SO 434440 3.5763 hectares Section 6 SO 43440 0.5445 hectares Section Pt Allot 22 SO 15236 Parish of Pakuranga
Site area	11.7915 hectares

Diagram 1: Location plan



Source: Auckland Council Geomaps

² Administering body has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Diagram 2: Legal descriptions and classifications

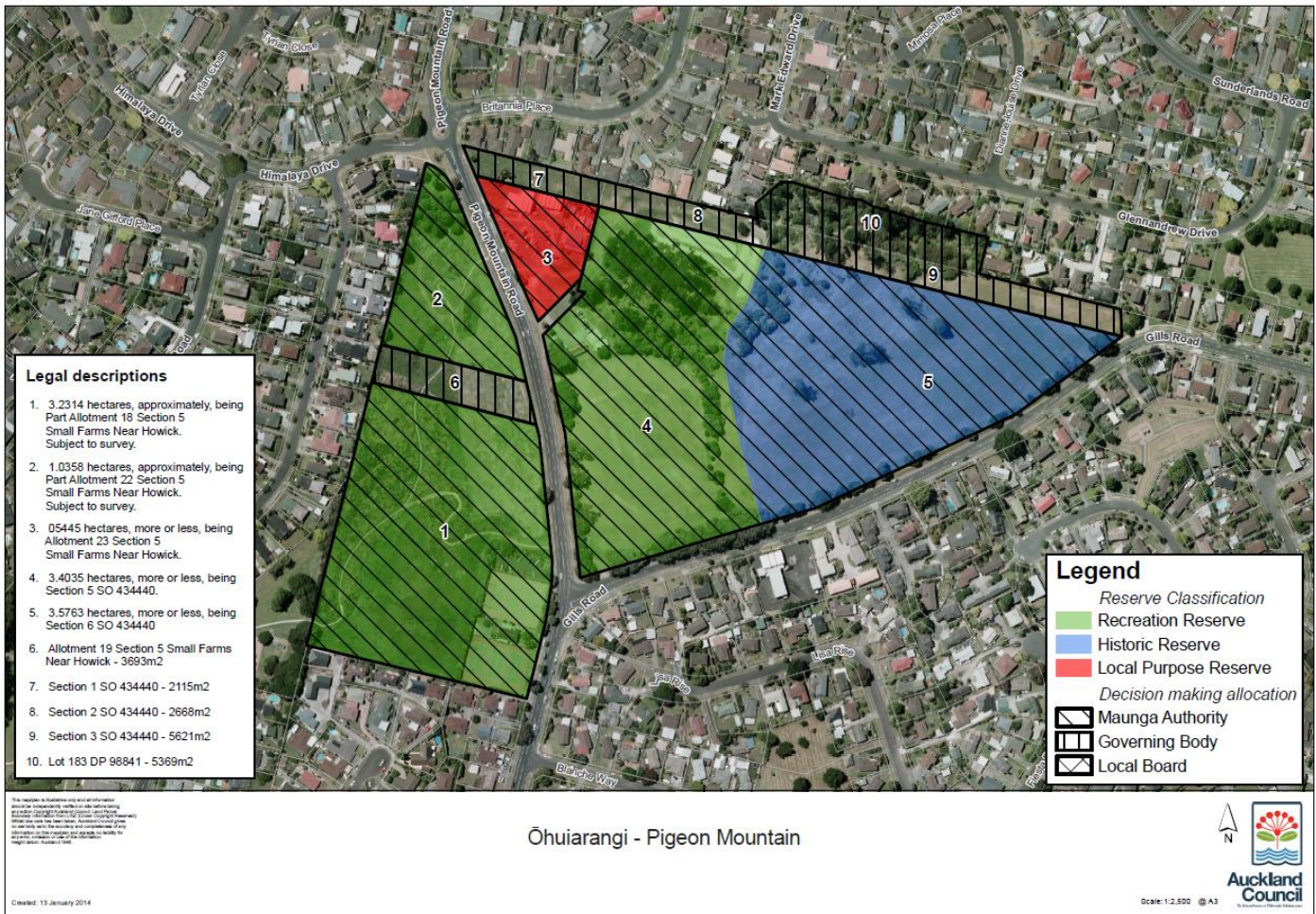


Table 3: Auckland Unitary Plan Auckland Unitary Plan – Operative in Part (AUP) property summary

Zone	Open Space - Conservation Zone Open Space – Community Open Space – Sport and Active Recreation Zone
Overlays	<u>Natural Heritage: Outstanding Natural Features Overlay [rcp/dp] - ID 156, Pigeon Mountain scoria cone</u> <u>Built Heritage and Character: Historic Heritage Overlay Extent of Place [rcp/dp] – 1289, Pakuranga Pa (Pigeon Mountain), R11 38</u>
Controls	Macroinvertebrate Community Index [rcp/dp] – Urban Stormwater Management Area Control – Flow 2

3. TŪPUNA MAUNGA AUTHORITY

Tūpuna Maunga governance and administration

- 3.1 In 2014, following five years of Te Tiriti of Waitangi settlement negotiations, 14 Tūpuna Maunga were transferred to the 13 iwi/hapū of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau. The Tūpuna Maunga are held in Trust for the benefit of those iwi/hapū and people of Auckland.
- 3.2 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).
- 3.3 In exercising its powers and carrying out its functions under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 (**Redress Act**), the Authority must have regard to the spiritual, ancestral, cultural, customary, and historical significance of the Tūpuna Maunga to Ngā Mana Whenua.
- 3.4 The Maunga are sacred to Mana Whenua as taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down the generations). The Authority has a direct interest in protecting views to, from and between the Tūpuna Maunga

Integrated Management Plan

- 3.5 Section 58 of the Redress Act requires the Authority to prepare and approve an integrated Management Plan (**IMP**) for land under its administration³. The purpose of the IMP is to establish how the Tūpuna Maunga will be cared for, managed and maintained both on an integrated basis while also identifying values specific to individual maunga.
- 3.6 Section 59 contains the requirements of the IMP including cultural activities and those that enable Mana Whenua to exercise their kaitiakitanga. Following adoption of the IMP reserve management or conservation plans relating to the maunga will no longer apply.
- 3.7 A single IMP⁴ which sets out the foundations for how the Tūpuna Maunga are values, protected, restored, enhanced and managed in the future, was approved 23 June 2016.
- 3.8 As it relates to this application, the IMP policies around use, aesthetic and access reflect that the Tūpuna Maunga are part of a broader volcanic field and see the protection and enhancement of the volcanic field in its entirety⁵. Enhancing this natural environment includes protecting, restoration, and enhancing the authenticity and integrity of this unique landscape through the progressive removal of structures and features that detract from the Tūpuna Maunga. Strategies relevant to and that have guided the preparation of the activity are:

³ IMP, Page 53. While parts of the land included in this application were not part of the Treaty Settlement and are owned by the governing body, the Tūpuna Maunga Authority has administering responsibility (refer Diagram 3).

⁴ Approved 23 June 2016

⁵ IMP, page 66

Spiritual

- The importance of the maunga as sites of cultural and spiritual significance to mana whenua is recognised and the relationship between the tangata and the whenua is restored;
- Establish an authentic Maori presence and remove impediment to mana whenua exercising their kaitiakitanga; and
- Protect, maintain and improve the visibility and undertaking of the natural, cultural, geological and heritage features of the Tūpuna Maunga⁶.

Landscape

- Increase the biodiversity, structural diversity and native habitat values of the Tūpuna Maunga and their hinterland by enhancing plant health, soil health, native food resources and habitat connectivity through the development and implementation of an Ecological Restoration Strategy;
- Ensure planting and other landscape features are compatible with the protection of the natural and cultural features of the maunga; and
- appropriately locate, design and construct new structures, services, areas of planting and facilities to compliment the landform, reduce or minimise visual distractions and respect the cultural, historic and spiritual values⁷;

Biodiversity

- Protection and enhancement of indigenous species including threatened plant and animal species already present on the Tūpuna Maunga;
- Replanting and restoring the indigenous biodiversity of the Tūpuna Maunga, connections between the Tūpuna Maunga and the wider volcanic landscape;
- Replanting and restoring traditional indigenous mana whenua flora and fauna;
- A planting regime with plant choice based on use of appropriate and representative species; and
- Re-establishing the mana whenua role as kaitiaki of the ecology and biodiversity of the Tūpuna Maunga.

⁶ IMP, Page 58

⁷ IMP, Page 58

Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2018-2019 (Operational Plan)

- 3.9 For each financial year the Authority and Auckland Council must agree an operational plan. The plan outlines the work programme for the financial year, which comprises projects at a regional and individual maunga level. Importantly, the operational plan sets out how these individual projects contribute to delivery of the Authority's objectives and vision for the Tūpuna Maunga by linking them to one or more of the Tūpuna Maunga Values.
- 3.10 The work programme in the next 3 years identifies healing the maunga as one of the three priorities to be achieved through projects including restoration of indigenous native ecosystems; reintroducing native plants and attracting native animal species; removing inappropriate exotic trees and weeds⁸. Vegetation management specifically removing weed species, managing inappropriate exotics and revegetation of suitable areas will assist with Tūpuna Maunga Wairuatanga / Spiritual and Takotoranga / Landscape values⁹.
- 3.11 A network-wide programme to remove vegetation and revegetate works at Ōhūiarangi are part of the Operational Plan capital works budget for 2018/2019¹⁰.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE TŪPUNA MAUNGA AND CONTEXT

History

- 4.1 Each iwi has their history and connections with the Tūpuna Maunga. The following paragraphs are provided to assist with a contextual understanding of the significance of the Tūpuna Maunga to Mana Whenua.
- 4.2 Human occupation of Aotearoa, including Tāmaki Makaurau dates back about 1,000 years with the arrival of the first tūpuna of the Māori people from Hawaiki. There were several great tribal migrations and originally tribal origins were formed identifying with waka in which the founding ancestors had arrived. As new groups arrived, and society developed, pressure on resources, defeat in war, disagreements of breach of custom, and mana caused larger hapū to break off into smaller groups. Iwi and hapū formed and larger groups had their own papakāinga (village settlement) or fortified pā.¹¹
- 4.3 During this period, the Tūpuna Maunga were developed into the most extensive network of monumental and defendable settlements in Polynesia, supported by expansive areas of volcanic

⁸ Operational Plan 2018/19, page 8

⁹ Operational Plan, Table 1 Tūpuna Maunga Work Programme 2018-28

¹⁰ Operational Plan 2018/19, page 37

¹¹ Rāwiri Taonui, 'Tribal organisation - How iwi and hapū emerged', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/tribal-organisation/page-2> (accessed 1 August 2018)

soils suitable for agriculture. They were significant areas of settlement, of agriculture, of battles, of marriages, of birth and burial.¹²

Significance

- 4.4 Mana whenua hold the Tūpuna Maunga as places to be honoured, respected and protected for those who have gone before and for the many generations to come¹³.
- 4.5 The Tūpuna Maunga are among the most significant spiritual, cultural, historical, archaeological and geological landscapes in the Auckland region and hold a paramount place in the identity of the 13 iwi/hapū of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau. The landmark Redress Act marked an important milestone in the restoration of these iconic taonga. The maunga and the volcanic field are central to Auckland's identity. Auckland's key point of difference in the world is its unique Māori identity, with the Tūpuna Maunga being a tangible reminder of mana whenua occupation of Auckland over a millennia.
- 4.6 The Tūpuna Maunga have come to be treasured and celebrated by all communities for their striking landscape and heritage features, the distinct identity and sense of place they inspire and their value as open spaces for all Aucklanders to be active, and for respite, relaxation and escape from busy urban lives.¹⁴

Ōhūiarangi

- 4.7 The Tūpuna Maunga of Ōhūiarangi is located within the suburb of Half Moon Bay. This Tūpuna Maunga covers an area of 11.7195 hectares and is described as a prominent landform despite major damage by quarrying. The volcano consisted of a tuff ring (about 500m in diameter) with a scoria cone, several small scoria mounds and a small explosion crater on the northwest rim of the tuff ring. Today, the height of the volcano cone is 55m. A small, lava flow is still visible at Wakaaranga Creek¹⁵. Reflecting the natural heritage values the majority of the Tūpuna Maunga, is scheduled in the AUP as an outstanding natural feature.
- 4.8 The eastern portion of Ōhūiarangi, containing the tihi, northern and eastern slopes, is a place of historic heritage significance for its history, cultural, knowledge (archaeological), and aesthetic landscape values.¹⁶ A large portion of the Tūpuna Maunga is recorded as archaeological site R11/38 as pa site including terrace/s, pit/s, midden features. It is a place of significant value to Māori, with various iwi having occupied the land at various times before the pa becoming a major settlement of Ngāi Tai as detailed in the archaeological record.
- 4.9 Ōhūiarangi is bisected by Pigeon Mountain Road. The land generally slopes down toward the south west. The main concentrations of exotic vegetation occur within the northern and central

¹²about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/kaupapa-maori/comanagement-authorities-boards/tupuna-maunga-tamaki-makaurau-authority/Pages/tupuna-maunga-significance-history.aspx, <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz> (accessed 31 October 2018)

¹³ IMP, page 54, 57

¹⁴ IMP, page 4

¹⁵ AUP Schedule 6 – Outstanding Natural Feature Overlay, reference # 156 Pigeon Mountain, category V

¹⁶ Schedule 14.1 - Built Heritage and Character: Historic Heritage Overlay, AUP reference #1289 Pakuranga Pa (Pigeon Mountain) R11_38, (category B). A, C, D & G

areas of the larger eastern portion of Ōhūiarangi including the quarry and western and northern slopes of the tihi. Natives, interspersed with exotics, dominate the Pigeon Mountain and Gills Road frontages. Exotic vegetation within the western portion is limited to the northern tip and a native wetland characterises the lower western area. None of the vegetation is recorded in the AUP as being of collective or individual significance.

- 4.10 Vehicle access is from Pigeon Mountain Road at the northern end to a sealed carpark where there are community buildings including club storage sheds and a Kindergarten. A cricket pavilion and toilet block area are located a short distance to the south with vehicle access restricted to maintenance vehicles. Maintenance vehicle access is also provided in the south western corner at the edge of the sports fields from Gills Road. Formal pedestrian pathways are limited within the eastern larger portion of the maunga, with a rough gravel pathway leading from the edge of the quarry to the tihi. Box steps are provided over the steeper portions. Desire lines have also formed from Gills Road to the tihi. A gravel walking track is available through the western portion on the opposite side of Pigeon Mountain Road which connects with the open space network to the west. Tennis courts and clubrooms with associated parking are in the south eastern corner of this portion.

Area of works

- 4.11 While removal of exotic species is proposed at various locations within the Tūpuna Maunga, the main area of works is in the old quarry area, along the road frontages, and around the tihi. Planting is proposed in the quarry on the western side of the tihi, and in the modified north eastern corner adjacent to the sportsfield, where it can be undertaken without damage to archaeological sites. Mound planting within rocky areas is also proposed on the eastern slopes of the tihi.

Surrounding context

- 4.12 The surrounding context is zoned residential and consists of residential dwellings except for commercial activity at 193 Gills Road. Aside from the works in the north eastern corner, the work is over 10m from adjoining properties.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

Background and purpose

5.1 Vegetation restoration represents a fundamental step in facilitating the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Tūpuna Maunga in an integrated manner.¹⁷ This activity is part of a wider revegetation and weed management programme for all 14 Tūpuna Maunga. The first stage of the revegetation programme was for Maungarei. The resource consent for Maungarei was approved non-notified¹⁸ and adopted the same compendium of methodologies as proposed with this application.

5.2 The purpose of the works is also to remove exotic trees that are:

- causing damage to archaeological sites and evidence;
- in poor health, form or decline and pose a risk of failure; and
- pest species as identified by the Regional Pest Management Strategy or on the research list for unwanted organisms.

Trees to be removed

5.3 The proposal involves the removal, to stump, of 112 exotic trees within Ōhūiarangi¹⁹ These trees are identified on the Treescape tree data list²⁰ and the location shown on Figure 1. All trees are over 3m in height, and the species and numbers are:

Tree Species	No. Trees
Agonis flexuosa - willow myrtle, peppermint tree	1
Araucaria cunninghamii -hoop pine	1
Callistemon sp. - bottle brush	2
Cedrus atlantica - Atlas cedar, blue	1
Crataegus laevigata - English hawthorn	7
Cryptomeria japonica - Japanese cedar	1
Cupressus macrocarpa - Monterey cypress	4
Eucalyptus sp.	10
Grevillea robusta - silky oak	4
Liquidambar styraciflua - sweetgum	1
Lophostemon conferta - Queensland Box	3
Pinus sp.	56
Quercus ilex - holm oak	4
Acmena smithii, Syzygium - lilly pilly, monkey apple	13
Populus sp.	4

Source: Treescape Ltd, 2018, Table 2

¹⁷ IMP, Page 67, 91

¹⁸ LUC60 311082

¹⁹ Due to a number of constraints, the exotic trees on the northern quarry face are not being removed as part of this application.

²⁰ Treescape, 2018, Appendix C

Figure 1: Aerial map of the subject site showing Operating Zones, Tree Locations and Removal Methods



Source: Treescape Ltd, 2018, Figure 2

5.4 This application does not include the removal of exotic trees in the south western area and northern area as these involve a different methodology. The removal of these trees will be the subject of a separate resource consent application.

Tree removal methodology

5.5 The overarching principles guiding the methodology relate to:

- avoiding ground disturbance to protect archaeology and the landform;
- avoiding damage to native tree species;
- minimising ecological effects on flora and fauna values;
- limiting effects on sensitive noise receivers; and

- protecting the public and workers whilst minimising disruption and closure of the Tūpuna Maunga to the public.
- 5.6 A collaborative approach has been adopted to inform the proposal using expert assessments to guide the methodology appropriate for this maunga. Avoiding damage to native species predominantly consisting of Pohutukawa and, to a lesser degree, Totara, Kohekohe and Karaka that collectively account for approximately 30% - 40% of species within Ōhūiarangi has been an important consideration.
- 5.7 The tree removal methodology prepared by Treescapē Ltd contains a range of felling methods²¹. An itemised inventory of trees and proposed removal method for each tree is outlined in Appendix C of the Treescapē report.
- Quarry - Crane assisted dismantling and manual felling
- 5.8 57 trees will be removed from this area including 47 Pines and two Eucalyptus. Parts of this area notably the lower reaches at the northern and western end, are highly disturbed. In other areas including the lower slopes below the tihi at the eastern end, no more than minor disturbance is apparent. One tree will be removed from the south eastern corner of the quarry area by manual felling. As the potential for archaeology to be present exists²² cranes will be set up in the level processing site below the works to assist with removal. This method will avoid ground disturbance of areas where archaeological features may be present.
- Eastern Slopes – Helicopter assisted dismantling
- 5.9 A total of 11 trees will be removed from the eastern slopes below the tihi including four Eucalyptus trees and three each of Hawthorn and Queensland Box trees. As this location contains some of the most significant visible archaeological evidence remaining on the maunga and it is likely that significant subsurface evidence is also present²³ the helicopter assisted dismantling method is necessary.
- Road Boundary - Crane assisted dismantling
- 5.10 The area contains Eucalyptus, Oak and Poplar, and a collection of smaller exotic trees including 13 Acmenas totalling 26 trees. The majority of these trees are located in areas where there is no obvious archaeology and in many cases evidence of past earthworks having occurred. A crane can be brought onto the site via the existing vehicle access and appropriately cut sections will be lifted to the processing sites. Loose shell was observed in one area near the cricket pavilion²⁴ necessitating the use of crash mats in this particular location (refer Figure 7 of the HIA).
- Northern Corner – Manual Felling with crash mats
- 5.11 Manual felling techniques will be used to remove six trees from the northern corner western boundary. As the potential for archaeology exists, works will be restricted to when the ground is firm and crash mats will be in place. An exclusion zone for vehicles, plant and equipment will be marked out by an archaeologist prior to commencement of works. Any felled trees and their

²¹ Ōhūiarangi – Pigeon Mountain Arboricultural Operations Plan Treescapē, 2018 Appendix A

²² Druskovich 2018, page 12, loose shells were noted near the cricket pavilion

²³ Druskovich, 2018, Page 14

²⁴ Druskovich, 2018, Page 14

residue to be left on site will avoid areas where surface midden is present or is detected. Suitable areas for placement of residue shall be confirmed by the project archaeologist prior to works commencing in this area.

- Tihi – Crane Assisted Felling and Helicopter Assisted Felling

5.12 There is the potential for archaeology within this area. The 12 trees, consisting of nine Pine trees, two Hawthorne and one Eucalyptus tree will be removed by a combination of crane and helicopter assisted felling.

Processing of vegetation

5.13 Two processing sites will be used. Processing site 1 is in the former quarry and BMX track area of flat grass to the east of the kindergarten and Processing site 2 is in the sportsfield. These are identified on the Operating Zones Map prepared by Treescape. Except for the duration of the felling of the *Macrocarpa* trees adjacent to the sealed carparking area, temporary screening will be placed around the north western and south eastern end of the carpark to ensure to exclude this area from the processing area to ensure that intact archaeological deposits are protected. Processing site 1 adjacent to the kindergarten is a will only operate when the kindergarten is not in use, during school holidays. In accordance with Mr Styles'²⁵ recommendation, where practicable the chipper used on Processing site 1 should be moved as far to the south as possible, and screened by trucks or other machinery if space is available, and that preference be given to the use of Processing site 2.

5.14 Helicopter use will be limited to retrieving cut sections of the trees and delivering them to one of the designated processing areas for removal off site. This helicopter movement will occur within the boundaries of the Tūpuna Maunga.

Disposal and duration

5.15 The majority of material removed by helicopter and crane assisted dismantling will be loaded directly into transport and removed from the site either as logs or branches (maximum 5m in length) for processing off-site. The remainder will be chipped using trucks from the existing sealed road, carparking areas and sportsfield and distributed on site.

5.16 Two 10 tonne trucks will operate in rotation to remove the chipped material – when processing times are higher using an excavator. It is anticipated that truck movements will be a maximum of 8-10 per day to and from Domain Road. A smaller (10t tip or hiab) truck, and where required 5m trailer, will remove logs from the site. Vehicle movements are estimated at 4-5 per day to and from the site.

5.17 The preference of the Authority is that with the exception of specific logs that may be suitable for carving, and those transported off site, processing is mulch on site, and will only be removed where surplus to requirements.

²⁵ Styles, Page 7

- 5.18 The expected duration of the works is 20 days, of which helicopter assisted dismantling will be required for potentially a maximum of 4 days. Helicopter use is restricted between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.
- 5.19 The works will occur:
- in the drier summer months to avoid modification to the ground;
 - between the hours of 7.30am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday; and
 - no works on Saturday, Sunday or public holidays.

Public access and traffic management during tree removal

- 5.20 Where practicable public access to the Tupuna Maunga will be maintained. However, this will largely depend on health and safety requirements, with a cautious approach taken for public access to ensure both the public and contractors are safe from harm. Areas of the park that are to remain open and the measures to prevent public from being in harm's way will be detailed in the Environmental Management Plan.

Communications Plan

- 5.21 To inform public of the works and the areas of the park that will be closed during the works, a comprehensive communication plan will be finalised and implemented prior to the start of the works. A draft of this document is contained in Appendix 6.

Acoustic management and mitigation for tree removal

- 5.22 An acoustic assessment has been prepared by Mr Jon Styles²⁶ for the noise generating works associated with the tree removals to both inform and assess the proposed methodology. Specific consideration has been given to the removal works involving the helicopter, chipping and log removal. As outlined by Mr Styles, the proposal has been assessed against the noise controls that apply to construction activities²⁷ at Rule E25.6.27 of the AUP. The AUP states that any construction noise shall be measured and assessed with *NZS 6801:1999 Acoustics and Construction Noise*.
- 5.23 Noise levels generated by all activities except for the operation of the chainsaw in one location in the northern corner, use of the helicopter for very short durations in locations along the northern facing slope of the tihi, and to the south, are permitted. The expected exceedance is generally 5 dBA and for one property 10dBA. As stated by Mr Styles, these higher noise levels will be generated over a very short duration of approximately of 4 days, being 2-3 days at any receiver²⁸.

²⁶ Styles, 2018

²⁷ The tree removal proposed in this application is a one off, temporary construction event, and does not seek to authorise ongoing helicopter movements on the Maunga. The application of construction-related rules to the use of helicopters for construction activities is common and traditional. This interpretation was accepted in the resource consent for exotic tree removal from Maungarei / Mt Wellington.

²⁸ Styles, Page 8

- 5.24 Mr Styles recommends including a condition of consent limiting work to no more than three consecutive days per week, and for the same three days in the subsequent week. In accordance with Mr Styles recommendations a consent condition which is also offered, requiring that the owners and occupiers of neighbouring buildings within a minimum of 200m from the likely to be exposed to noise levels above 75dBA to be advised of the works in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of works. The written notice to the owners and occupants of 36 Glennandrew Drive shall also include details of the scheduled timing and duration for helicopter tree removal in the vicinity of the northern part of the tihī to provide the opportunity for the occupiers to vacate during this time.
- 5.25 Also included as part of the methodology is that the noise from the use of the helicopter will not exceed a noise limit of 85dB L_{Aeq} when measured 1m from the façade of any occupied building.

Archaeological management and mitigation for tree removal

- 5.26 Archaeologist, Mr Druskovich has identified areas where past earthworks (some substantial) and quarrying will have destroyed any archaeological evidence or where archaeological evidence was present in relation to tree removals, processing areas and access. This information has both informed and assessed the proposed methodology and the removal works have been developed to avoid any impact on archaeology.
- 5.27 Mr Druskovich advises that archaeological conditions vary across the mountain, and in more sensitive archaeological areas, including those of identified archaeology or where the potential for unrecorded subsurface archaeology to be present exists, less intrusive removal techniques are proposed, including:
- helicopter assisted removal to avoid ground disturbance and archaeological damage;
 - non-tarsealed access tracks restricted to periods of dry weather unless within the two identified processing areas;
 - leaving roots and stumps in situ within areas of advanced erosion at the tihī and slopes until other vegetation can succeed the stumps to hold the maunga together;
 - defining exclusion zones for vehicles, plant and equipment, archaeological supervision during tree felling and marking out areas where residue can be left in the North Corner
 - laying crash mats to absorb falling forces in the North Corner and along the south western boundary; and
 - fencing off the midden and other likely areas of subsurface archaeological evidence under archaeological direction.

Ecological mitigation during tree removal

- 5.28 An ecological assessment has been prepared by Tonkin & Taylor Ltd and is attached as Appendix 9. The ecological value of the trees to be removed has been informed by a desktop review, site walkover, other expert reports including the tree methodology, herpetological habitat assessment²⁹, restoration planting plans, and data on threatened species.
- 5.29 In addition to adherence to the proposed tree felling and processing methodology outlined above, to ensure that no net loss to biodiversity values will occur Tonkin & Taylor recommend the following, which are included in the offered conditions of consent:
- no felling in bird breeding season, without first checking for active nests by a suitably qualified ecologist;
 - ensure that the project arborist and machinery operators work within the identified works zones to avoid crushing injuries and mortality of native lizards during works;
 - equipment used to fell trees should be cleaned prior to use on site to avoid spreading pathogens, including potentially myrtle rust and contractors should observe standard biosecurity hygiene practices (e.g. vehicles and tyres free of mud, mulch and other debris) used to manage spread of other pathogens, such as kauri dieback.

Revegetation and ecological works

- 5.30 The key driver for the works is native revegetation of the Tūpuna Maunga following the removal of exotic tree species. Enhancement of ecological values and preventing regeneration of exotic weed species occur alongside the key driver. This is reflected in the specific pathways to achieve biodiversity in the IMP specifically:
- Restore suitable areas of the Tūpuna Maunga with indigenous ecosystems. Decisions on location, plant choice, and staging would draw on traditional and scientific knowledge.
 - Reintroduce or attract indigenous species to the Tūpuna Maunga, including microorganisms, invertebrates, lizards, and birds, as all of these contribute to resilient and healthy ecosystems.
 - Remove invasive plant and animal pests³⁰.
 - Acknowledge the ecological linkages and wildlife connections between the Tūpuna Maunga and other important open spaces within the Tāmaki Makaurau by treating planting as one environment.
- 5.31 In support of this, a planting plan prepared by Te Ngahere³¹ takes into account the various overlays relating to the historic heritage, archaeology, landscape values, and skink habitat concurrently with opportunities for ecological restoration, and herpetofauna habitat enhancement.

²⁹ Ecogecko Consultants, 2018

³⁰ IMP, Page 71

³¹ Te Ngahere, 2018

The planting plan focuses on the restoration of highly modified areas on the maunga through revegetation to a historically accurate ngahere ecosystem, and the development of suitable habitat to protect and preserve native fauna present at the site³². Due to the implications of ground disturbance and corresponding impact on heritage features, ecological restoration opportunities are limited.

- 5.32 Two areas to establish potential native skink and invertebrate habitat are identified in the planting plan to provide basking habitat. Mound planting as a no dig method to establish pōhuehue is proposed for the eastern slope. This species is already present in low numbers along these terrace slopes below the tihi³³ and extending this low growing native species would reduce grass cover and foot traffic across these areas, while protecting any archaeology and not impact on any historic defensive sightlines.
- 5.33 The weedy quarry site provides an opportunity for additional planting, including Pūriri, which as Te Ngahere advise is likely to have been present across much of this site historically. Reintroducing this ecosystem within the modified gravel pit of the quarry site will not inhibit historic defensive sightlines from the tihi. An outline of the proposed planting, plant schedule and planting guide is based on a no damage approach to significant features including archaeology.³⁴
- 5.34 Three types of planting to enhance the ecological values of the maunga have been identified as appropriate in the following locations as detailed:

Rocky Areas

- Proposed plant species include low growing species such as pōhuehue and native ferns that would provide shelter and food for native skinks that may already be present or could be potentially introduced to the site. With the exception of existing shrubs already established, this habitat would be low growing. This is also an appropriate option for not impacting on historic defensive sightlines from significant tree growth. These areas are limited in size by surrounding archaeological features.³⁵

Quarry Face and edge of the sportsfield - Puriri Ngahere

- As some native plantings already exist diversity seedlings will be introduced in the initial plantings. The extent of this restoration area will require further definition to ensure no damage to significant features including archaeology occurs.

Eastern slope below the tihi

- To maintain sightlines to the tihi, promote skink habitat, preserve archaeological features and manage pedestrian traffic through this area, species are limited to those that can be mound planted, seed scattered or establish naturally.

³² Te Ngahere, 2018, Page 3

³³ Te Ngahere, 2018, Figure 1

³⁴ Te Ngahere, 2018, Table 3 & 4

³⁵ Te Ngahere, 2018, Page 6

Ecological mitigation to support the planting

- 5.35 Tonkin & Taylor has provided an independent assessment of the proposed native revegetation. To support the planting, they recommend a suite of complementary management such as weed management and predator control. These form part of methodology of works and are included in the offered conditions of consent.

Archaeological mitigation for the planting

- 5.36 Mr Druskovich supports the planting plan prepared by Te Ngahere, and their proposed methods and locations for conservation plantings, subject to supervision by the project archaeologist in specific areas. Further limitations include planting species suitable for archaeological sites (Jones 2007), for plantings within 5m of archaeological features, the method of weed management and location of specimen trees.

- 5.37 An Archaeological Works Plan is proposed to address:

- general archaeological monitoring, recording, and reporting;
- monitoring of all works involving, or with high potential for, ground disturbance in areas of historic heritage potential (e.g. north corner and cricket pavilion location);

Earthworks for the planting

- 5.38 As the removal works involve removing the trees to a minimum of 300mm above ground level, earthworks (as defined in Chapter J1) relate solely to the revegetation element. While planting occurs over a wider area as above, the majority of planting involves small plants, seedlings, mound planting with a no dig option, and requires minimal disturbance. As the amount of earthworks relates directly to plant spacings and root size, it is difficult to calculate the exact sum, but based on the planting plan³⁶ and adopting a conservative approach earthworks are estimated to involve approximately 218.9m² and 5.46m³.

- 5.39 Due to the nature of the works, soil will not be left exposed and there will be minimal soil disturbance, and silt and sediment controls are not warranted.

Environmental Management Plan

- 5.40 To provide flexibility in undertaking tree removal and revegetation works, a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) forms part of the application. This incorporates final versions of mitigation measures included as part of the application and time sensitive documents more appropriately prepared closer to commencement of works e.g. Health and Safety Plan. A condition to this effect is included as part of the suite of offered conditions in section 10 of this AEE.

³⁶ Planting Plan prepared by Te Ngahere

6. CONSULTATION

Iwi consultation

- 6.1 The Authority uses Tamaki Collective notices to consult with the iwi/hapū who have interests in this Tūpuna Maunga³⁷. One response was received from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua who expressed support for the proposal.

Community Facilities – Auckland Council

- 6.2 Following consultation about the proposed revegetation works, written approval of Mace Ward, General Manager Parks Sport and Recreation at Auckland Council has been provided. The General Manager Parks Sport and Recreation has the delegation for maintenance of trees and vegetation, and works in Council Open Spaces. This affected landowner approval is attached in Appendix 3.

³⁷ As set out in the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014, the iwi and hapū who have interests in Ōhūiarangi are:

Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki
Ngāti Maru
Ngāti Tamaoho
Ngāti Tamaterā
Ngāti Te Ata
Ngāti Whanaunga
Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei
Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara
Te Ākitai Waiohūa
Te Kawerau ā Maki
Te Patukirikiri

7. REASONS FOR THE APPLICATION

7.1 Appendix 2 is an assessment of the AUP rules relating to this activity. Resource consent is required under the AUP for the following reasons:

1. D17.4.1 (A9) Modifications to, or restoration of, buildings, structures, fabric or features of a scheduled historic heritage place (category B), is a restricted discretionary activity except where provided for as a permitted, controlled or restricted discretionary activity in another rule. The removal of 26 exotic trees does result in a modification of the HHP.
2. D17.4.2 (A23) Conservation planting is a discretionary activity within the scheduled historic heritage place (category B).
3. D17.4.2 (A26) Removal of trees greater than 3m in height or greater than 300mm girth is a discretionary activity in the scheduled historic heritage place (category B). All trees to be removed within the HHP are greater than 3m in height.
4. E12.4.3 (A39) Land disturbance not otherwise permitted greater than 2m³ and up to 10m³ is a restricted discretionary activity in ONF – V1 (large volcanic landform) subject to meeting the standards outlined in E12.6.2. Land disturbance of works of 5.46m³ is required for revegetation works.
5. E16.4.1 (A7) Tree removal of any tree greater than 4m in height or greater than 400mm in girth is a restricted discretionary activity in the open space zones. Consent is sought for the removal of all 112 exotic trees as a restricted discretionary activity.
6. E25.4 (A2) Construction noise levels exceeding 75dB L_{Aeq} for activities sensitive to noise is a restricted discretionary activity. The proposal will exceed the construction noise limit in one area by a maximum of 7dBA for up to 3 days.

The application is overall a discretionary activity for the matters specified in the AUP.

7.2 No consents are required under the Legacy District Plan or National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011.

8. NOTIFICATION ASSESSMENT

Public notification of consent application (section 95A)

8.1 Section 95A the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) sets out the steps to determine whether to publicly notify an application for resource consent. There are four steps to be addressed:

Step 1	It is not mandatory to notify this application as the applicant is not requesting notification.
Step 2	This application is not for an activity precluded from notification.
Step 3	<p>This application must be publicly notified if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. the application is for a resource consent for 1 or more activities, and any of those activities is subject to a rule or national environmental standard that requires public notification; andii. the consent authority decides, in accordance with section 95D, that the activity will have or is likely to have adverse effects on the environment that are more than minor.iii. There is no rule or national environmental standard that requires public notification of this application. <p>Consideration of whether the adverse effects are likely to be more than minor is addressed below.</p>
Step 4	A determination of whether special circumstances exist in relation to the application that warrant the application being publicly notified is addressed below.

More than minor adverse effects on the environment (Section 95D)

Effects to be disregarded

8.2 When determining if the adverse effects of the activity on the environment are more than minor, the following must be disregarded:

- a) 'Adjacent' land, which is not defined by the RMA, but takes into account the characteristics of the landform and surrounding environs. Ōhuiarangi is located within an urban environment and is surrounded by residential properties and road frontages. Due to the physical attributes of the maunga noting topography, open space and orientation, adjacent land is considered to be the properties at:

- 149- 209 Gills Road, and 23A – 43 Lisa Rise (residential properties to the south)
- 140 - 146 Gills Road (residential properties to the west)
- 16 - 64 Glenandrew Drive, 1 – 23 and 2-18 Britannia Drive, and 59 & 61 Pigeon Mountain Road (residential properties to north)
- 3, 5, 2/5 & 7 (Himalaya Drive, residential properties to the north, north-west)
- 4,1/4 & 6 Himalaya Drive and 3-18 Imogene Way (residential properties to the west)

Permitted baseline and existing environment

- 8.3 The existing environment, against which the effects should be assessed, is described in section 4 of this AEE.
- 8.4 Of relevance to the permitted baseline, is that:
- removal of trees less than 3m high is permitted; and
 - under the construction noise standards up to 100 days (20 weeks) at a level of 75dB L_{Aeq} at any received is permitted. This noise standard forms the permitted baseline from which the noise based amenity effects are assessed.

Landscape effects

- 8.5 The landscape and visual effects assessment prepared by landscape architect Rebecca Skidmore identifies that Ōhūiarangi is not a prominent landform in the landscape due to scarring by former quarrying, and exotic trees particularly those extending towards the tihī obscure the natural volcanic landform. The Pine trees, clustered within the former quarry as well as the large stand-a-lone specimens have a dark, sculptural forms that dominates the volcanic feature.
- 8.6 Ms Skidmore considers the removal of the exotic vegetation will restore the integrity of the Maunga and enable its mana to be better recognised and uplifted.³⁸ Ms Skidmore also considers that the retention of the range of native vegetation present on the flanks of the Maunga will reduce the perceived extent of scarring as the exotic vegetation is removed, maintaining a vegetated aesthetic. Removal of exotic vegetation will provide a better growing environment for the existing native species. Overall, as concluded by Ms Skidmore the proposed removal of existing vegetation, together with enhancement planting, of note the WF7 Pururi Ngahere habitat, will result in positive landscape effects.³⁹

³⁸ Skidmore, page 7

³⁹ Skidmore page 7

Visual amenity effects

- 8.7 As described by Ms Skidmore while the Maunga is a distinctive landform in the local environment, and important in contributing to the wider volcanic field, the relatively low height and extensive quarrying mean that Ōhūiarangi is not a prominent landmark feature in the context of the wider urban environment.⁴⁰ Having said this, the attendant vegetation, particularly the pine trees that extend up the flanks of the Maunga collectively create a relatively prominent landmark in the local urban landscape and the removal of this vegetation will be apparent from a range of locations.⁴¹ Four groups of viewing audiences and the corresponding degree of visual changes and therefore effects on each group in relation to this collection of pine trees have been identified by Ms Skidmore. As these relates to effects on persons, they are discussed when assessing section 95B and Section 95E of the RMA. It is noted that Ms Skidmore has identified the magnitude of change to inform visual effects both positive and adverse and in many instances the visual effects are positive and at worst low adverse.⁴²

Ecological effects

- 8.8 The proposal will result in the removal of the majority of exotic trees from the site, including two identified as pest species and a one earmarked for further research⁴³ and native revegetation. The ecological value of the exotic terrestrial habitats is described in the Ecological Assessment prepared by Tonkin & Taylor as overall low⁴⁴ and the magnitude of ecological effects resulting from the removal of the exotic trees is low.⁴⁵ As a result, the overall level of potential ecological effects to determine whether mitigation is necessary is identified by Tonkin & Taylor as very low.
- 8.9 Tonkin & Taylor conclude that mitigation for the anticipated, low ecological effects including the proposed restoration of the maunga with low stature native plantings around the tihi, lower WF7 forest ecosystem on the lower areas, and enhanced skink habitat, together with the pest management programme will result in overall a net gain on indigenous biodiversity values.⁴⁶ Overall the exotic tree removal and restoration will result in a net ecological benefit with greater biodiversity value compared to the site's current state.

Archaeological (Heritage)

- 8.10 The HIA prepared by Mr Druskovich identifies that the heritage values of this place relate to Mana Whenua, history, archaeological evidence and landscape context. As outlined in section 6 above, the iwi that responded expressed support for the proposal. Effects relating to landscape have been addressed by Ms Skidmore and concluded to be positive or low adverse. The focus of Mr Druskovich's assessment is the archaeological effects of the tree removal and the planting.

⁴⁰ Skidmore, page 4

⁴¹ Skidmore, page 8

⁴² Skidmore, 2018, Section 4

⁴³ Treescape, 2018, Page 6

⁴⁴ Tonkin & Taylor, 2018, page 2

⁴⁵ Tonkin & Taylor, 2018, page 8

⁴⁶ Tonkin & Taylor, 2018, page 13

- 8.11 The majority of the proposed removal works involving use of the ground for machinery or access are within areas where there is clear evidence that quarrying and substantial past earthworks including for access formation and levelling for sportsfields has removed any archaeological evidence that might once have existed. Mr Druskovich identifies areas where the possibility exists of surface and previously unrecorded pre-European sub-surface archaeological material being affected – specific locations within the quarry, the eastern slope, adjacent to the cricket pavilion, adjacent to the carpark; and at the tihi.
- 8.12 The works methodology has been developed to avoid any ground disturbance where archaeological features are present or could exist. Nonetheless, the potential for archaeology to be encountered and damaged while low does exist. To address this potential effect, and as outlined in Section 5 above, if unrecorded evidence related to early Māori occupation is encountered appropriate Council Accidental Discovery protocol will be followed.
- 8.13 Earthworks are limited to those required for revegetation. The location of revegetation have been informed by the archaeologist to generally avoid areas of previously identified archaeological features, or to inform planting⁴⁷. In areas where the potential exists for archaeology to be present exists, no dig conservation plantings to discourage desire lines while retaining archaeology are proposed. Under the supervision of the project archaeologist a small amount of fill will be laid and soil disturbance will not extend below this fill. This methodology will avoid the potential for archaeology, if it is present, to be impacted as there will be no disturbance below original ground level.
- 8.14 On this basis, it reasonable to conclude that the tree removal and replanting works will have no more than minor adverse effects on archaeology.

Mana Whenua values

- 8.15 The proposal implements directions in the IMP and Operational Plan, documents that have been developed with input from Mana Whenua. In addition, Mana Whenua were provided details of this project and the response received is positive. While it is for Mana Whenua to determine effects on their values, it is reasonable to conclude that there is no adverse effect on their values.

Earthworks and ground stability

- 8.16 The earthworks are for the planting. Effects usually associated with earthworks, such as sediment or erosion are therefore not relevant.
- 8.17 As described by Mr Druskovich, there are areas on the slope below the tihi where there are signs of erosion.⁴⁸ Tree roots will be left *in situ* and planting of the slope have been designed to remedy erosion issues currently evident while assisting with the protection and conservation of the Maunga.⁴⁹ As detailed above, mound planting and seed scattering will assist with halting erosion

⁴⁷ Druskovich, page 19

⁴⁸ Druskovich, page 12

⁴⁹ Druskovich, page 22

and discourage pedestrians from creating desire lines providing mitigation for erosion and resulting in positive as opposed to adverse impacts on stability.

- 8.18 Effects of earthworks within an outstanding natural feature are discussed below.

Outstanding natural feature effects

- 8.19 There is no adverse effect on the geological values of Ōhūiarangi as the method of tree removal avoids ground disturbance and earthworks is limited to small areas of planting, involving primarily above ground areas of fill. As noted by Ms Skidmore, from some locations the pine trees and to a lesser extent the eucalyptus trees diminish the appreciation of the landform of the Maunga.⁵⁰ The removal of exotic trees from much of the Maunga will restore the landscape integrity and enable its mana to be better recognised and uplifted and while it is acknowledged that the loss of landform cannot be restored, the restoration planting particularly will enhance the natural landscape values of this area of the Maunga.⁵¹

Noise effects

- 8.20 The assessment undertaken by Mr Jon Styles, Acoustic Specialist models predicted noise levels. The effects of the noise are on fauna and persons. Effects of noise on fauna are discussed in the ecological assessment and concluded to be less than minor. Effects on persons are discussed when assessing section 95B and Section 95E of the RMA.

Traffic management during tree removal works

- 8.21 The tree removal works require trucks to enter and leave the site during the day using existing vehicle access located at the north eastern edge of the site. Up to 15 vehicle movements per day are anticipated over the 20 day works timeframe. This increase in traffic will result in no more than minor adverse effects as the trucks are small and consistent with the size of trucks commonly used for construction, maintenance works and earthworks for open space and residential areas. There will be no reversing required onto public roads given the manoeuvring space available within the site. The location of traffic movements is with the exception of those properties along Britannia Place, and the western end of Glennandrew Drive generally afforded generous separation to residential properties by roads, open space, topography and fencing. Any increase in traffic will be insignificant and easily absorbed into the surrounding road network.
- 8.22 Overall, any effects arising from traffic are therefore considered to be negligible and temporary in nature being limited to the duration of works.

Public access during tree removal works

- 8.23 The tree removal works require parts of the reserve to be closed to the public. There may be some minor inconvenience to regular park users during the works, in particular those who use the carparking area entrance to access the clubrooms, and users of the sports field. As tree removal

⁵⁰ Skidmore, page 10

⁵¹ Skidmore, Page 7

works will be undertaken outside of Kindergarten operating hours during school holidays they kindergarten will not be inconvenienced. Similarly, the sea scouts who use the clubrooms and storage facilities do so on weekends and evenings. The cricket club practice on Wednesday evenings and play on the weekend. Where health and safety, for both contractors and public can be assured public access can be maintained and it is anticipated that any disruption to pedestrians will be low level, minimal and limited to the duration of works.

- 8.24 Disruption to the public will be minimised by implantation of a comprehensive communications plan to inform the local community and near-by residents of the works and information on temporary closure of certain areas.

Step 4 - special circumstances (sections 95A and 95B)

- 8.25 In this case, the proposal comprises of restricted discretionary and discretionary activities and therefore activities envisaged by the AUP, and the individual components of the proposal are not unusual or collectively special. Removal of trees and planting within public open space zoned land and the urban environment are not unusual and as such it is considered that there are no special circumstances that would warrant the public notification or limited notification of this application.

Limited notification and affected persons (sections 95B and 95E)

- 8.26 Section 95B sets out the process for determining limited notification. Section 95E sets out the considerations for defining if a person is an affected person.
- 8.27 With respect to sections 95B(2) and (3), protected customary rights groups and statutory acknowledgements are not affected.
- 8.28 Limited notification is not required under section 94B(6) as the application is not subject to a rule or national standard that requires limited notification and nor is the application a controlled activity.
- 8.29 With respect to section 95B(7), the reasons for consent are not boundary activities. A wider consideration of persons affected by the activity, in accordance with section 95E, is therefore required.
- 8.30 As the application is overall discretionary, all effects on persons must be considered. Where a person has provided written approval, section 95(3)(a) deems that they are not then an affected person. In this case, given the minor nature of the works, limited duration and that there are no adverse effects, no persons are considered to be adversely affected to the extent that their written approval would be required.
- 8.31 Clause C1.13(4) of the AUP requires that when deciding whether any person is affected in relation to an activity for the purposes of section 95E of the Resource Management Act 1991, the consent authority will give specific consideration to the entities with responsibility for any natural or physical resources which may be affected by the activity, including:

- (b) in relation to historic heritage, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga;
- (e) in relation to sites of significance or value to Mana Whenua⁵², the iwi authority in whose rohe the proposal is located.

8.32 As the historic heritage values relate solely to archaeological features, an Archaeological Authority to modify will be sought if required. As detailed above in Section 6 feedback was sought from the relevant iwi groups. The one response was received expressed support for the proposal with no assessment on cultural values or on-going involvement considered necessary. It is reasonable to conclude that there is no adverse effect on Mana Whenua.

Visitors to the Tūpuna Maunga

- 8.33 Ms Skidmore considers those persons with the most direct visual amenity experience of the removals are visitors to the maunga, including users of the recreational and community facilities on the western side. Retention of large native trees will maintain a vegetated aspect. Collectively the very tall spindly pine trees of poor form on the lower western area of the maunga are as described by Ms Skidmore somewhat overbearing the removal of these trees will enable a better association with the landform.
- 8.34 Removal of the pine trees on the upper flanks will provide opportunities for better appreciation of the landform including the former terracing of the Pa, and will enhance the visitor experience.
- 8.35 When viewed from the revegetated wetland located to the west, removal of the exotic vegetation this will enhance the visitor experience as it will reinstate a more natural appearance. Retention of the native trees will complement the natural vegetation pattern around the walkway. Visual effects on visitors to Ōhuiarangi are concluded as being positive, and high.
- 8.36 Once the works are complete, for visitors to the maunga, the visitor experience will be enhanced by restoring a natural appearance to the environment.
- 8.37 Any temporary closure of parts of the park will be communicated in advance. The need to close parts of a park for operational or maintenance works is not an uncommon occurrence. There may be some minor inconvenience to regular park users during the works, in particular those who use the carparking area entrance to access the clubrooms, and users of the sports field. Where health and safety, for both contractors and public can be assured public access can be maintained and it is anticipated that any disruption to pedestrians will be low level, minimal and limited to the duration of works.
- 8.38 The communications plan specifically acknowledges the need to communication with regular users being the sea scouts and sports club as they may be affected by noise and inconvenience. These impacts can be managed through communication and where required rescheduling of activities. As the works will occur outside of the times that the Kindergarten is open, effects on

⁵² AUP Schedule 14.1 Schedule of Historic Heritage ID 1571 identified as a place of Māori interest or significance.

this activity are avoided. Notwithstanding, as a courtesy the Kindergarten will be included in communications.

Users of surrounding streets

- 8.39 Depending on factors such as proximity, direction of view, attitude of viewer, and mode of transport, views from users of surrounding streets is generally transient. While some glimpses of Ōhūiarangi are available from mostly elevated views in the wider environment, the maunga is primarily viewed from the local neighbourhood and it is the tall pine trees that are mainly prominent as opposed to the Maunga itself. Removal of the pine trees will allow views of the primacy of the landform from, for example, the intersection of Gills Road and Buckland Beach Road, to be better appreciated. As it relates to street edges retention of mature native trees with maintain a strong vegetative edge to the streetscape.
- 8.40 While views in the immediate vicinity may initially be perceived as adverse, and result in what Ms Skidmore describes as a low adverse effects, overtime, enhanced vegetative patterns and greater legibility of the landform mean that there will be no adverse visual effects.

Users of the open space network

- 8.41 The maunga is not a highly visible landscape feature with views in the surrounding open space network limited to what is described by Ms Skidmore as glimpses of the maunga and its attendant vegetation. From the local open space reserve to the west, views are largely obscured by large trees. Visual effects on this group will be negligible as a result of the works.

Residents and users of surrounding properties

- 8.42 Removal of the taller pine trees and to a lesser extent the Eucalyptus trees will be to varying extents apparent to these groups. As their form is generally poor and incongruous to residential development, their removal will enable appreciation of the landform of the maunga. Existing native trees, noting the mature Pohutukawa will retain a strong vegetated edge to the street and residents.
- 8.43 Removal of the trees on the northern corner will create increased exposure to the street, however the generous separation across the reserve will mitigate effects and there will be improved outlook.
- 8.44 A small number of nearby properties and users of the wider environment may perceive⁵³ the impact from the tree removals as adverse, however the extent of the effect would be low.
- 8.45 Short term effects relating to the introduction of machinery are anticipated. Visually, given the scale of the works and elements relative to that of the Maunga, any adverse visual effects will be low level and limited in duration.

⁵³ Skidmore, 2018, page 7 visual effects differ from environmental factors as required an assessment on perceptions as well as resources. This requires an anticipatory assessment of probable responses from people who will see it.

- 8.46 In terms of noise effects, the majority of helicopter assisted dismantling works are compliant with the permitted noise levels of up to 75dBA L_{Aeq} with the landings and take-offs being the quietest activity that the helicopter undertakes during the project, leaving the noise of the approach and departure (of which there will be one each per day) largely irrelevant. The rest of the day the helicopter will spend operating at altitudes below 500ft above ground level which involves the noisiest phases of the operation.
- 8.47 Mr Jon Styles, Acoustic Specialist confirms the noise from the proposed use of the helicopter only exceeds the permitted noise levels in one location being at the tihi and northern slope. Noise produced will be greater than the permitted level for a very short duration, and the noise levels for the remainder of the works are likely to be compliance with the permitted noise controls at all receivers and this proposal constitutes a considerably lower degree of overall effect than what is permitted by the AUP.⁵⁴ Subject to the mitigation limiting working hours and duration of works, the opinion of Mr Styles, which I concur with, is that the effects of the noise levels on nearby persons will be reasonable⁵⁵.
- 8.48 As outlined in the attached draft Communications Plan, all audiences, including nearby residents, will be provided with accurate information of the scope of the proposed works. Near-by residents will be provided information on temporary closure of certain areas and the proposed works in advance of the tree removal works. Included in the communication plan is the requirement for specific consultation with the owners and occupiers of 36 Glennandrew Drive, noting specifically the works involving the use of the helicopter for removals in the northern part of the tihi. Consultation shall take place at least ten days before the commencement of works in this area to enable the occupants to vacate during this time.
- 8.49 Based on the above assessment, no persons are considered to be affected beyond the less than minor threshold provided for in the RMA.

Notification conclusion

- 8.49 That, this application be processed without public or limited notification because:
- there are less than minor adverse effects of the activity on the environment;
 - there are no special circumstances to warrant notification or limited notification;
 - there are no protected customary rights groups or marine title groups in the region adversely affected by this proposal; and
 - no persons are adversely affected by the activity.

⁵⁴ Styles, Page 8

⁵⁵ Styles, Page 8

9. SECTION 104 ASSESSMENT

Statutory matters

- 9.1 Subject to Part 2 of the RMA, when considering an application for resource consent and any submissions received the consent authority must, in accordance with section 104(1) of the RMA have regard to; any actual and potential effects on the environment of allowing the activity; any relevant provisions of a national policy statement, a New Zealand coastal policy statement; and a regional policy statement or proposed regional policy statement; a plan or proposed plan; and any other matter the Council considers relevant and reasonably necessary to determine the application.
- 9.2 When considering discretionary activities, the consent authority must consider all adverse effects. Those matters that are relevant to the assessment of this application are considered in the following sections of this AEE.

Actual and potential effects on the environment - section 104(1)(a) and (ab)

- 9.3 An assessment of adverse effects has been set out at section 8 of this AEE where it was concluded that parts of the activity would have less than minor adverse effects on the environment.
- 9.4 Significant positive effects will result from the activity and these include:
- contributing to the cultural restoration and healing of the Tūpuna Maunga through implementation of policies in the IMP;
 - removal of 31 trees which are classified as a surveillance pest plant or being investigated as unwanted organisms on Ōhūiarangi⁵⁶.
 - revegetation, in particular the WF7 Pūriri Ngahere habitat⁵⁷, and mound planting which will further enhance the natural landscape aesthetics and generate positive landscape effects;
 - enabling providing a better growing environment for existing native specimens⁵⁸;
 - opportunities to view the shape of the pa as the prominent feature at the tihi and the relationship of the land and the Tamaki River can be better appreciated⁵⁹;

⁵⁶ Tonkin & Tylor, Page 2

⁵⁷ Skidmore, Page 7

⁵⁸ Skidmore, Page 7

⁵⁹ Druskovich, Page 24

- reinforcing the distinctive landscape feature of Ōhūiarangi in the local environment and greater integrity to the natural landform together with its cultural associations and as part of Auckland's volcanic field⁶⁰;
- historic heritage values of the Tūpuna Maunga will be enhanced by removing trees that have the potential to disturb and destroy *in situ* archaeological features including exposing archaeology from ground damage during storm events, and strategic planting;⁶¹ and
- ecological values will be enhanced by native revegetation which will provide additional opportunities for skink habitat.⁶²

9.5 Overall, the proposal will result in continued public enjoyment and appreciation of the heritage, natural and Māori values of the Tūpuna Maunga.

Planning documents – section 104(1)(b)(vi)

Introduction

9.6 There are no appeals to the AUP that trigger consent under the operative planning documents. The focus of this assessment is therefore on the AUP. The many overlays applying to the land seek similar outcomes – primarily the protection of the feature from use and development. As a discretionary activity overall, the objectives and policies form the basis for the assessment. Assessment criteria relevant to restricted discretionary activities are addressed only where the criteria raise matters not otherwise addressed in the objectives and policies.

Open Space zones (Chapter H7)

9.7 There are two broad objectives applying to all open space zones⁶³. These relate to the provision of a range of quality open spaces and that adverse effects of the use and development of open space on residents, communities and the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated. This proposal supports the continued provision of quality open space within Ōhūiarangi through the enhancement of the vegetative aesthetic and landscape amenity. For the reasons detailed in section 8, while there are adverse effects on the environment from this activity, these effects are no more than minor, and primarily potential effects, the risk of which can be avoided or mitigated by methodologies.

9.8 General policies to give effect to the open space objectives are set out at H7.3 and the activity is consistent with these as:

- The proposal reflects the natural, heritage and landscape values of the area⁶⁴.

⁶⁰ Druskovich, Page

⁶¹ Druskovich, page 23

⁶² Tonkin & Taylor, Page 11

⁶³ Objectives H7.2 (1) & (2)

⁶⁴ H7.7(1)(f)

- Open space is developed in such a way to reflect Mana Whenua values⁶⁵ specifically through restoring and enhancing ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity⁶⁶.
- Opportunities for residents and visitors to experience Māori cultural heritage are provided, while protecting these sites and features⁶⁷ through mitigation for erosion and facilitating legibility of a heritage landscape.

9.9 Specific objectives and policies for Open Space Conservation zones are set out at H7.4.2 and H7.4.3, as it relates to this application the activity is consistent with this framework for as the natural, ecological, landscape, Mana Whenua, historic heritage and conservation values are protected from adverse effects⁶⁸ and the use of the open space is managed in a way that enhancing Mana Whenua values and re-establishes their relationship and their culture and traditions to their ancestral lands, sites and taonga⁶⁹.

9.10 Work within the Open Space Sport and Active Recreation zone is limited to removal of 26 exotic trees, 13 of which are Acmena⁷⁰ and is consistent with the objectives and policies contained at H7.6.2 and H7.6.3 as outdoor active recreational needs including those accessory in nature will continue to be efficiently provided for while enhancing amenity values for residents, the community and surrounding environment.

Treaty Settlement Land (Chapter E21)

9.11 The Tūpuna Maunga fall within the AUP definition of Treaty Settlement land. As a discretionary activity, the objectives and policies in Chapter E21 can be considered as part of the assessment of this application. These provisions recognise the importance of the relationship of Mana Whenua with land acquired through the Treaty settlement process, and the desire of Mana Whenua to re-establish ahi kā on lands within their ancestral rohe.⁷¹

9.12 Objective E21.2(4) is particularly relevant to this application.

Mana Whenua use and develop Treaty settlement land in areas where there are natural and physical resources that have been scheduled in the Plan in relation to natural heritage, Mana Whenua, natural resources, coastal environment, historic heritage and special character, provided that adverse effects on those values are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

9.13 Removal of exotic species, native revegetation on the Tūpuna Maunga and improving sightlines of the tihi are key strategies in the IMP to enhance ecological values and respect the sacredness of the tihi. For the reasons detailed earlier, the effects on the works are primarily positive rather than adverse. Where there is the potential for adverse effects on natural resources and historic

⁶⁵ H7.3(2)

⁶⁶ H7.3(2)(a)

⁶⁷ H7.3(2)(c)

⁶⁸ H7.4.2(1) & (2)

⁶⁹ H7.4.3(1), (2) & (3)

⁷⁰ Classified as 'Surveillance – whole region' pest plants under the regional pest management strategy

⁷¹ E21.1 Background

heritage, these have been avoided or mitigated by the methodologies included in the scope of the application.

Modification of a Scheduled Historic Heritage Place, conservation planting and tree removal in an archaeological site (chapter D17)

9.14 Objectives and policies for scheduled historic heritage places (**SHHP**) are at Chapter D17. In the context of what is proposed, the proposal is consistent with the objectives and policies for the reasons that:

- the protection and conservation of the scheduled historic heritage place is supported and enabled⁷².
- the SHHP is protected from inappropriate use, including inappropriate modification⁷³.
- the activity will not result in any adverse effects on the significance of the historic, knowledge (archaeological) and context values of the place⁷⁴.
- the proposal will contribute to the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the historic heritage values of the place, particularly as it will reveal the natural landform of the maunga and supports the long-term viability and ongoing use of the place without leading to significant adverse effects on the surrounding area⁷⁵.

9.15 Special Information Requirements are outlined at D17.9 and requires that works affecting scheduled historic heritage places must be accompanied by a heritage impact assessment commensurate to the effects of the proposed works on the overall significance of a historic heritage place and taking into account whether the works affect a primary, non-primary, non-contributing or excluded site or feature.

9.16 In his assessment Mr Brent Druskovich, outlines at 8.1 and 8.2 the historic heritage value and corresponding assessment of effects. There are no historic heritage values relating to the trees to be removed and the works methodology will avoid impacts to surface features and sub-surface archaeological material. The majority of the conservation plantings occur where the landform has been modified and will be placed either where archaeological evidence does not exist or mound planting is proposed to prevent further erosion from pedestrian and past motorcycle traffic⁷⁶.

9.16 Assessment criteria at D17.8.2 (d) requires consideration of whether the proposed works, including those of a cumulative nature, will result in adverse effects on the overall significance of the scheduling to such an extent that it no longer meets the thresholds for which it was scheduled. As the proposal enhances the values for which Ōhuiarangi was scheduled, the works are consistent with this criterion.

⁷² Objective D17.2(1)

⁷³ Objective D17.2(2)

⁷⁴ Policy D17.3 (9)(a)

⁷⁵ Policy 17.3(b), (c) & (e) and 17(9)(a), (c), (e) & (f)

⁷⁶ Druskovich, 2018

Land disturbance in an Outstanding Natural Feature, (Chapters D10)

- 9.17 Objectives and policies in Chapter E12 Land disturbance are focused on ensuring, where land modification is necessary, that it protects the safety of people and avoids, remedies and mitigates adverse effects on the environment. Policy 12.3(1) is particularly relevant to this application as it is about avoiding where practicable, and otherwise, mitigating adverse effects of land disturbance on scheduled places e.g. natural heritage, and Mana Whenua. Policy 12.3(4) which seeks to manage the impact on Mana Whenua cultural heritage that may be discovered during land disturbance through protocols including accidental discovery and undertaking specific measures to avoid adverse effects⁷⁷ are also of specific relevance.
- 9.18 As the trigger for earthworks is the Outstanding Natural Feature (**ONF**), it is appropriate to consider the objectives and policies contained in D10. Objective D10.2 requires that the ancestral relationships of Mana Whenua with outstanding natural features are recognised and provided for. Policies including the protection of the physical and visual integrity and avoidance of adverse effects on the qualities that contribute to the values of the ONF⁷⁸ are relevant. Specific mention to volcanic cones in protecting the integrity of ONF is made at D10.3(3), including avoiding adverse effects on the natural characteristics, qualities and Mana Whenua. Protecting the value of the ONF in its wider historic heritage, cultural, landscape, natural character and amenity context is also outlined.⁷⁹
- 9.19 Restricted discretionary activity assessment criteria for earthworks is set out at E12.8.2(2)(d) for the ONF. General restricted discretionary assessment criteria including for earthworks is listed at E12.8.1. The matters of discretion are largely effects based and have therefore been addressed above in section 8 where it was concluded that effects would be less than minor. Suffice to note that:
- the earthworks will comply with the standards and managing and monitoring will be undertaken where necessary to ensure the sensitivity of the maunga is protected;
 - there will be no impact on the stability, safety of the surrounding area as the earthworks are very minor in nature and predominantly occur within areas of the site already modified;
 - given the minor nature of the earthworks no stockpiling is anticipated;
 - the duration of the earthworks is expected to be less than two months; and
 - land disturbance cannot be avoided as it is necessary to undertake revegetation and protect and enhance the identified archaeological, natural and ecological values of the maunga;

⁷⁷ Policy E12.3(4)(a) and (c)

⁷⁸ Policy D10.3(2)

⁷⁹ Policy D10.3(4)(a)

Tree Removal in Open Space zones and Scheduled Historic Heritage Place (Chapters E16 and D17)

- 9.20 The trigger for tree removals relates to the SHHP (where additional archaeological controls apply), and the open space zone. The objectives and policies relating to the SHHP have been discussed above. Given the nature of the tree works, limited to exotic species and native revegetation offered with only insignificant potential adverse effects, the proposal is considered not inconsistent with the objective and policy framework outlined in E16 as trees that contribute to cultural, amenity, landscape and ecological values are protected⁸⁰ and the use of indigenous trees and vegetation for planting to recognise and reflect these values is encouraged⁸¹.
- 9.21 Assessment criteria for restricted discretionary activities for trees in open space zones is outlined at E16.8.2. Being largely effects based and relating to vegetative, ecological, and habitat values of trees, this criteria has been addressed above in Section 8. For completeness in response to the criteria, the following comments are made:
- no alternatives are available that could result in retaining the trees as the work is necessary to remove exotic trees from the tupuna maunga;⁸²
 - methods to control plant pathogens and diseases will be in place for the safe disposal of plant material;
 - the need for direction and supervision of the works by a project arborist has been identified to avoid adverse effects on native trees to be retained and forms part of the methodology;
 - a planting plan has been prepared to address the effects of the tree removals on ecological values; and
 - the activity is consistent with the framework of E20 in that it contributes to and encourages, the long-term viability and/or ongoing functional use of the Tūpuna Maunga, facilitating development in accordance with mātauranga and tikanga to support the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Mana Whenua thus providing for tikanga values.

Noise (Chapter E25)

- 9.22 Objectives and Policies for noise are contained at E25, given the minor nature of the infringement to the noise standards with what are assessed as being reasonable effects, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the objective and policy framework relating to noise. Based on the assessment of Mr Styles people and the amenity values of residential zones will be protected from unreasonable noise⁸³ and the adverse effects of the works unable to meet the permitted construction noise levels are managed by the very short duration and timing. Where practicable,

⁸⁰ Objective E16.2(1)

⁸¹ Policy E16.3(3)

⁸² E16.8.2(d)

⁸³ Objective E25.2(1) & (2)

the noise has been minimised to mitigate adverse effects on the adjacent sites⁸⁴ thereby having regard to the sensitivity of the residential receiving environment⁸⁵.

Macroinvertebrate Index

- 9.23 The Macroinvertebrate Urban Index applies to the site. This requires consideration of the objectives and policies as outlined at E1.2. Objectives seek to maintain and improve the quality of fresh and coastal water. Managing discharge and other indicators of water quality and ecosystem health by appropriate use and development will assist with achieving the desired outcomes. It is considered that the works as they relate to water quality are relevant in so much that there will be no ground disturbance relating to the tree removal and additional planting, in particular ground cover and the weed control will assist with filtration and minimise run-off of sediment. No new paved surface is proposed. The proposal is therefore not inconsistent with the objectives and policies.

Section 104(1)(c) Other matters

- 9.24 The IMP is a statutory document that replaces Reserve Management Plans. For the reasons detailed above the proposal is consistent with the IMP, and considerable weight should be given to achieving this document as another matter under section 104(1)(c) of the RMA.
- 9.25 Ōhūiarangi is also subject to the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. Section 53(1)(d) allows the administering body of a recreation reserve to close the reserve for a maximum of 40 days as follows:

(1) The administering body of a recreation reserve may from time to time, in the exercise of its functions under section 40 and to the extent necessary to give effect to the principles set out in section 17,—

(d) prescribe, as to not more than 40 days in any year as it thinks fit, that the public shall not be entitled to have admission to the reserve or to any part or parts thereof set apart for a particular purpose or purposes unless on payment of a charge or charges as hereinafter mentioned:

- 9.26 The proposal will not be contrary to the Reserve Act provisions, as the length of the works estimated to be 20 days.

Part 2 of the RMA

- 9.27 Recent case law confirms⁸⁶ and with a recently operative planning document, there is no need to refer to Part 2 of the RMA.
- 9.28 Notwithstanding, and in support of the proposal, this activity enables continued public enjoyment and appreciation of the heritage, natural and Māori values of the Tūpuna Maunga. The proposal

⁸⁴ Policy E25.3(2)

⁸⁵ Policy E25.3(10)

⁸⁶ R J Davidson Family Trust V Marlborough District Council [2018] NZCA 316 [21 August 2018]

will assist with protecting and maintaining the visibility and understanding of the natural and heritage features of the place through enhanced legibility of the feature and planting.⁸⁷ The Authority, who through Treaty settlement, is responsible for governance and administration of the land is seeking to enable the relationship of the iwi and hāpu with its whenua and exercise kaitiakitanga.⁸⁸ The proposal gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by enabling iwi and hāpu, through the Authority, to through careful consideration manage their ancestral land.⁸⁹

10. OFFERED CONDITIONS

- 10.1 Specialists have included recommendations to inform specific elements of the works. These recommendations have been compositely put together and modified where appropriate to meet Section 108 requirements.

Pre-commencement Conditions

Pre-Commencement Meeting with Compliance and Monitoring Staff

1. Prior to the commencement of tree removals, the consent holder shall provide notice of the pre-commencement meeting that:
 - is located on the subject site;
 - is scheduled not less than 5 days before the anticipated commencement of tree removals;
 - to which the Compliance Advisor (Southern) and relevant other specialists (e.g. Ecologist/ Archaeologist) at the Council's discretion are invited;
 - includes the Project Manager and supervising Archaeologist; and
 - includes representation from the contractors who will undertake the works.
2. The following information shall be made available at the pre-commencement meeting:
 - Finalised Communications Plan including: copies of letters to residents)
 - Finalised Planting Plan;
 - Finalised Traffic Management Plan;
 - Finalised Health and Safety Plan;
 - Finalised Tree Protection Methodologies; and
 - Archaeological Works Plan

Finalised Management Plans to be provided

3. A minimum of 5 working days prior to the commencement of the vegetation removal approved by this resource consent, the consent holder shall submit to the Council

⁸⁷ Part 2, section 6

⁸⁸ Part 2, section 7(a)

⁸⁹ Part 2, section 8

(Monitoring Team Leader Central) for approval in writing, final versions of the following management plans:

- Finalised Communications Plan;
- Planting Plan;
- Finalised Traffic Management Plan;
- Health and Safety Plan;
- Archaeological Works Plan for the tree removals and the planting shall include:
 - General archaeological monitoring, recording, and reporting.
 - Monitoring of all works involving, or with high potential for, ground disturbance in areas of historic heritage potential (e.g, north corner and cricket building location).

Written notice of helicopter use

4. The owners and occupants of all neighbouring buildings within a minimum of 200m of the site shall be provided written notice of the works at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement on site. The written advice shall include:
 - (i) a brief overview of the works and its expected duration;
 - (ii) mitigation measures to be implemented;
 - (iii) the working hours; and
 - (iv) contact phone number(s) for any concerns regarding noise.
5. The written notice to the owners and occupants of 36 Glennandrew drive shall also include details of the scheduled timing and duration for helicopter tree removal in the vicinity of the northern part of the tihī to provide the opportunity for the occupiers to vacate during this time.

Development in Progress Conditions

Implementation of Management Plans

6. No vegetation removal approved by this resource consent shall commence until written confirmation is provided by the council that **all** of the submitted final management plans are acceptable and that all measures identified in these plans, as necessary to be put in place prior to commencement of works, have been undertaken.
7. The consent holder shall ensure that all the actions within the Planting plan approved under the conditions of this consent are undertaken as proposed and submit a written record to the Council (Monitoring Team Leader Central) confirming compliance within 15 days of the completion of the work identified within the Planting plan.

Use of Helicopters

8. The noise from all works (except the use of the helicopter) shall comply with the noise limits of 80dB LAeq when measured 1m from the facade of any occupied building in accordance with NZS6803:1999 Acoustics – Construction Noise.
9. The noise from the use of the helicopter shall comply with a noise limit of 85dB LAeq when measured 1m from the facade of any occupied building in accordance with NZS6803:1999 Acoustics – Construction Noise.
10. The use of helicopters for lifting is only permitted between the hours of 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday.
11. Processing Site 1 may only be used during the school holiday period (weekdays), when Pigeon Mountain Kindergarten is closed for sessions.

Ecology

12. All vegetation shall be removed outside of bird breeding season (bird breeding season is September to January inclusive), except where a suitably qualified ecologist has confirmed that woody vegetation is clear of nesting native birds, eggs, or chicks.
13. A finalised Adaptive Lizard Management Plan for the site shall be prepared by a suitably qualified herpetologist and provided to Auckland Council for approval prior to vegetation clearance commencing. This shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (i) Tree felling and associated works methodologies and restrictions based on the Ecogecko Herpetology report;
 - (ii) Project ecologist and permit details;
 - (iii) Specific targeted predator control in any areas of high value skink habitat; and
 - (iv) Habitat enhancement including any specific weed management in identified high value skink habitat areas.
14. The finalised Planting Plan shall be prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist and provided to Auckland Council for approval prior to tree felling, for all restoration areas within the site. The final Planting Plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (i) Plant species, spacing, planting zones (if required), plant numbers and specification on plant size as described in this assessment report;
 - (ii) Planting methodology, including any staging(required for the effective control of weeds prior to planting, and enhancement species to be used for infill planting once the initial planting has established) in order to promote a WF7 rock forest habitat type;
 - (iii) Plant maintenance and weed management until canopy closure (minimum of five years); and
 - (iv) Monitoring and reporting.

15. A comprehensive predator management plan targeting potential habitat of native lizard and bird species shall be provided to and approved by Auckland Council within one month of the completion of the tree removals. The predator control relating to native lizards shall be implemented at sites identified as high-value lizard habitat. The comprehensive predator management plan will mitigate for any residual impacts on native lizards and birds.

Historic Heritage (archaeology)

16. Should ground disturbance on the site result in the identification of any previously unknown archaeological site, the land disturbance – Regional Accidental Discovery rule [E12.6.1] set out in the Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in part (November 2016) shall be applied.
17. In the event that any unrecorded historic heritage sites are exposed as a result of consented work on the site, then these sites shall be recorded by the consent holder for inclusion within the Auckland Council Cultural Heritage Inventory. The consent holders project archaeologist shall prepare documentation suitable for inclusion in the Cultural Heritage Inventory and forward the information to the Team Leader (for the Manager: Heritage Unit, heritageconsents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) within one calendar month of the completion of work on the site.

Tree Removals

18. All tree felling works and use of non-tarsealed access tracks or routes across the Reserve should only occur when the earth is dry to reduce the risk of pugging of the ground surface from repeated vehicle movements over soft ground, unless it is within the two identified processing areas.
19. That for the Boundary Road area identified in Figure 7 (HIA, Druskovich, Page 15) crash mats should be used should it be necessary to lower limbs or other matter to the ground in this area (other than directly to the processing area).
20. For works within the North Corner:
 - (i) All tree felling in the north corner area must be onto crash mats.
 - (ii) The project archaeologist shall be on site when tree felling is to occur in the north corner to define an area as an exclusion zone for vehicles, plant and equipment.
 - (iii) Should it be necessary to drag any trees or limbs across the exclusion area as to be defined by the project archaeologist above, crash mats should be laid across the surface to protect it from dragging damage.
 - (iv) The project archaeologist is to define areas where on site residue can be left within the north corner area. Should the identified areas not provide for all of the residue, any excess shall be removed.
21. Areas containing midden and other likely subsurface archaeological evidence with Process Site 1 shall be fenced off under the direction of the project archaeologist from the

work area near the cricket building for the duration of the works, except when the trees within the marked area are to be felled.

Conservation Planting

22. For the northern WF7 Infill Planting only species that are defined as suitable for planting on archaeological sites, as per the Department of Conservation (Jones 2007) publication or any updated list that is subsequently released by the Department of Conservation, should be planted within 5m of archaeological features.
23. The project archaeologist shall be on site for the set out for the northern WF7 Infill planting to define the limits of the adjacent archaeological evidence to facilitate condition 22 above.
24. Final placement of any mounds for planting areas shall not occur without supervision from the project archaeologist.
25. The project archaeologist shall be on site to guide the set out of the Rock Bomb area plantings.

Advice Note: An Authority to modify an archaeological site from Heritage New Zealand for both the mound plantings and the Rock Bomb area may be required for ground disturbance in this area.

Post Development Conditions

Maintenance of Restoration Planting

26. Once the work is completed, the consent holder shall maintain the site as per the requirements of the approved Restoration plan to the satisfaction of Council, including the removal of any weed species and the replanting of native plant cover to ensure canopy closure occurs (or once bare ground is covered for low growing plants).

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 Auckland Council, on behalf of the Authority is seeking resource consent for works to carry out native revegetation and the removal of exotic trees at Ōhūiarangi. The application is overall assessed as a discretionary activity.
- 11.2 Subject to the methodologies and offered conditions that form part of proposal, the potential for adverse effects are limited to no more than minor effects from tree works and those temporary in nature during the works period.
- 11.3 The proposal will result in significant positive effects on the environment through cultural and ecological restoration, enhanced landscape aesthetics and opening of historic defensive sightlines and views between the Tūpuna Maunga. Spiritual associations with the Tūpuna Maunga including culture and traditions will be re-established. Improved legibility of the heritage features will enrich the visitor experience through enhanced understanding and appreciation of the heritage, natural and Māori values of the place.
- 11.4 Overall, it is considered that the proposal meets the overriding sustainable management purpose of the RMA and the application may be granted, subject to the offered conditions.

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DATE: 6 December 2018

Reviewed by



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