

THE DRAFT TŪPUNA MAUNGA OPERATIONAL PLAN 2017/2018

SUBMISSION OF THE ORAKEI LOCAL BOARD

1. There is only one maunga governed by the Authority within the Orakei Local Board's area: Ohinerau/Mt Hobson. Another, Maungarei/Mt Wellington abuts the Board's eastern boundary. Where applicable, the Board's submissions apply not only to Ohinerau/Mt Hobson but also to the other maunga which the Board's residents enjoy.
2. The Board is concerned and has received many complaints from constituents about the deterioration and apparent lack of maintenance of maunga, particularly Ohinerau/Mt Hobson. Noting the devastation caused by the recent terrible fires in the South Island, residents are justifiably alarmed at the potential fire risk to the homes on or near the maunga which could be caused by the dry grass and weeds. Residents have also complained about difficulty in using now overgrown pathways.
3. The Board submits that allowing grazing on the maunga is both beneficial to the maunga as it controls the length of grass on the maunga, and for the community as it brings an element of rural New Zealand to urban Auckland.
4. The Board submits there is need for more proactive pest control, particularly rabbits, on Ohinerau/Mt Hobson.
5. The Board considers there is need for more proactive native tree re-establishment on Ohinerau/Mt Hobson to replace the diseased mature elm trees which were removed a few year ago.
6. The Board strongly advocates that the Authority retains and provides on-going maintenance, with community groups, of the war memorial planting area on the northern slope of Ohinerau/Mt Hobson.
7. The Board is concerned at the hard line approach taken by the Authority which cuts off, limits or denies convenient access by older or infirm residents to the tihi/summits of some of the maunga. The Board accepts that Ohinarau/Mt Hobson in general has only pedestrian access to the summit. But other maunga have stunning views of the region to enjoy not only by local residents but also by international and national visitors. The Board accepts and respects the important geological, historical, spiritual and cultural significance of the maunga. These values can still be maintained with prudent management while still permitting access to the maunga by visitors using vehicles.
8. The Board advocates to the Authority that it should communicate clearly its vision for its maunga. The Board suggests that the Authority should consult with the local boards who represent their communities and who can reflect community opinion, and also that the Authority open up better lines of consultation with the wider Auckland community.

Colin R.J. Davis JP

Chairman

Orakei Local Board

27 March 2017