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## **Notice of Motion** – *Support for the erection of the lit Star / Cross on Puketapapa / Pukewiwi at Christmas and Easter*

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In accordance with Standing Orders, please place the following Notice of Motion on the agenda for the Puketapapa local board meeting being held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017:

### **Recommendation/s**

**That the Puketapapa Local Board:**

- a) **acknowledges the mana and decision-making role of the Tupuna Maunga Authority in relation to the maunga Puketāpapa / Pukewiwi / Mt Roskill, in particular in regard to the erection of any temporary structures;**
- b) **notes our resolution PKTPP/2015/105 requesting respectful dialogue and a mutually agreed outcome to the issue of the Star/Cross on the tihi in May 2015, and further notes that both respectful dialogue and a mutually agreed outcome were achieved in that process;**
- c) **supports the 2017 application by the local Ministers' Association to the Tupuna Maunga Authority to continue arrangements in place since October 2015 to erect a temporary structure on Puketapapa / Pukewiwi / Mt Roskill as a lit star around Xmas time and as a lit cross around Easter time, noting:**
  - i) **permission is at the discretion of the Tupuna Maunga Authority, and**
  - ii) **the structure, and responsibility for its erection and dismantling, including transport and storage, are the responsibility of the local Ministers' Association**
  - iii) **the strongly held views of some members of our community that the lit star/cross on the maunga is a symbol of local identity and heritage**
- d) **forward this Notice of Motion and subsequent resolutions to the Tupuna Maunga Authority for their attention.**

### **Background**

The lit star/cross on the summit of Mt Roskill / Puketāpapa / Pukewiwi has been erected temporarily at Christmas and Easter for over 50 years, by local churches. For several years after the amalgamation of Auckland City Council in to Auckland Council the structure was inadvertently kept up for most of the year.

Authority for the open space that the maunga sits within, Winstone Park, transferred from Auckland Council to the Tupuna Maunga Authority as a result of the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014, and at some point after that the star/cross structure was taken down until permission and responsibility for it could be confirmed.

The Authority is currently working through policies and integrated management plans for the 14 cones that it has responsibility for, and relevant policy for a structure such as this is yet to be finalised. In the meantime, applications are made to the Authority for permission for a fixed period after which a new application must be made. In October 2015, the local Ministers' Association were given permission to erect the star/cross for Christmas 2015, Easter 2016, Christmas 2016 and Easter 2017. It is now time to re-apply.

As the work programme lead for Parks, Sport and Recreation, as well as Heritage, I have been checking with the Ministers' Association, and the Tupuna Maunga Authority, about the progress of the new application, and the Ministers' Association have indicated they would find a statement of support from the Local Board useful. They are applying again for temporary erection for limited periods around Christmas and Easter, rather than permanent year-around erection.

The star/cross features often in images of local identity for the greater Mt Roskill area, and Local Board members will no doubt have received messages from constituents about the value they see it as having. For some, it is a symbol of their Christian faith, which was very much the majority religion in Mt Roskill until the last twenty years or so when our community has become more interfaith in outlook (including some without a formalised faith). For others, it is more a heritage image that reminds them of our suburb and the maunga itself, something they remember seeing in the past and look forward to seeing in the future. Certainly it has been reflected in many documents and publications, such as posters advertising the Puketāpapa Youth Awards, a mural in Molley Green Reserve, on Christmas cards produced by local organisations and in the Local Board's plans and social media.

Others see the overt religious nature of the lit cross in particular as inappropriate on public land, and ask when we might see symbols of other faiths on the maunga at times that reflect other important religious festivals such as Diwali or Eid. This is an argument that also has merit, and I hope that in the future the Local Board can foster a careful and respectful community conversation about this matter, once the Tupuna Maunga Authority has policy in place that makes clear whether such structures can continue or not.

Until then, I recommend that the Local Board support the Ministers' Association application to maintain the status quo with the lit star/cross present for fixed and limited periods prior to Christmas and Easter.

For ease of reference, the Local Board's resolutions supporting the 2015 application, from our May 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 business meeting, are below:

#### 31.1 Extraordinary Item - Maunga Authority

Resolution number PKTPP/2015/105

MOVED by Member MP Wood, seconded by Chairperson JM Fairey:

That the Puketapapa Local Board:

- a) affirm the following in relation to ongoing discussions about the future of the cross/star structure of Puketāpapa/Pukewiwi/Mt Roskill:
- b) acknowledge the mana and decision making role of the Tupuna Maunga Authority in relation to the maunga.
- c) is aware of strong and genuinely held local views in relation to retention of the cross/star structure in some form.
- d) supports an outcome whereby the parties with an interest in the matter including the Authority, local community and the Board engage in respectful dialogue to understand the matters at hand, and attempt to find a consensus outcome that respects the positions of all parties.

- e) that in light of the above, the Board affirms discussions that have occurred to date involving Authority Officers, representatives of the Board, and the Mt Roskill Ministers' Association to try and reach a mutually acceptable outcome.
- f) believes that the option, broached in these discussions, of the Ministers' Association taking ownership of the cross and receiving permission from the Authority to display the structure for an agreed fixed period each year, may be good option to meet the legitimate concerns of all parties, and asks that the Authority seriously consider this option.
- g) would welcome the opportunity to engage in further dialogue in support of an outcome that meetings the legitimate concerns of the Authority and local community.
- h) forward these resolutions to members of the Tupuna Maunga Authority.

CARRIED

**Signatories:**

Authors	Julie Fairey
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