

OIAD-3199

21 August 2023



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 6 July 2023, in which you asked for the following information:

*... all communications and documents in relation to:*

- 1. DOC investing \$3 million in Te Mauri Hauropi o Ngā Tūpuna Maunga/Tūpuna Maunga Biodiversity strategy led by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority.*
- 2. Any other past, present, or intended DOC funding to Tūpuna Maunga Authority.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 ('OIA').

As the amount of information sought was substantial, we contacted you by telephone on 17 July 2023 and asked if you wished to refine your request.

On 17 July 2023, you amended your request to:

*Part 1:*

*Information regarding the decision to grant Tūpuna Maunga Authority funding from the Jobs for Nature programme, in particular the following:*

- who made the initial approach for the funding application.*
- the rationale behind the decision to approve the funding under the Jobs for Nature program.*
- what is in, and out, of scope, for the funding.*

*Part 2:*

*All information regarding other past present and future funding that has, or is intended to, be granted by the Department to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority in respect to activity related to the removal and/or felling of trees and other vegetation, within the Auckland boundary.*

*Part 3:*

*Please list of all other funding that DOC has provided / intends to provide TMA. All I require for Part 3 is the \$\$ amount, date and a brief description (i.e. 1-2 sentences) of that what the funding.*



On 14 August 2023, we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 21 August 2023 due to necessary consultation.

The Government's Jobs for Nature programme is a multi-agency programme investing \$1.219 billion to create nature-based jobs.

The Department's Mahi mō te Taiao / Jobs for Nature fund of \$485 million aimed to support people into nature-based employment through COVID-19. The fund brings councils, iwi and local businesses together to undertake conservation both on and off public land. Information about Mahi mō te Taiao / Jobs for Nature can be viewed on the Department's website at [www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/jobs-for-nature--mahi-mo-te-taiao/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/jobs-for-nature--mahi-mo-te-taiao/).

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

*Part 1:*

*Information regarding the decision to grant Tūpuna Maunga Authority funding from the Jobs for Nature programme, in particular the following:*

- *who made the initial approach for the funding application.*
- *the rationale behind the decision to approve the funding under the Jobs for Nature program.*
- *what is in, and out, of scope, for the funding.*

The Department and the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority (the Maunga Authority) have a strong working relationship and were in regular communication at the time the Jobs for Nature programme was announced. This led to the Maunga Authority becoming aware of the opportunity to apply for Jobs for Nature funding. An application was received from the Maunga Authority in November 2020.

The Jobs for Nature Reference Group developed an investment framework to guide its funding decisions. Projects were assessed on criteria including:

- the number of jobs created or retained;
- the types of formal training and skills development offered to employees with recognition given to NZQA certifications;
- how the project creates value for iwi, hapū, and whānau;
- the extent to which indigenous biodiversity will be restored and the likelihood of these benefits being sustained over time;
- project financials and a proven delivery track record – demonstrating the required capability to deliver the project; and
- the associated social and economic benefits of the project to nearby communities and the wider region.

The Maunga Authority's application was assessed against the criteria above. Each criterion was given a score which contributed to an overall score that was used to make a recommendation on whether the application should receive funding. We have identified that the assessment document is in scope of Part 1 of your request (see Item 1 in the table below).

A funding agreement for the Maunga Authority's Jobs for Nature project was completed in October 2021. The project, known as 'Te Mauri Hauropi o Ngā Tūpuna Maunga', is funded to undertake the following work:

*"...employ people to restore the mauri of Auckland's ancestral mountains through integrated pest control, weeding and restoration work. The Project will support the removal of pest animals and plants (possums, rodents, lizards, mustelids exotic, environmental pest plants) that have had a significant impact on the ecology of the Maunga, as well as ongoing vegetation restoration work to establish ecological corridors for native fauna."*

The funding agreement contains full details of what is in and out of scope of the funding. We have identified that this document is in scope of Part 1 of your request (see Item 2 in the table below).

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	18/1/2021	Tūpuna Maunga Authority Jobs for Nature application assessment	Released in part
2	4/10/2021	Tūpuna Maunga Authority Jobs for Nature funding agreement	Released in part

**Part 2:**

*All information regarding other past present and future funding that has, or is intended to, be granted by the Department to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority in respect to activity related to the removal and/or felling of trees and other vegetation, within the Auckland boundary.*

With reference to section 18(e) of the OIA, I am unable to provide you any information in response to Part 2 of your request as this information does not exist.

The Department has not provided any funding to the Maunga Authority relating to the removal and/or felling of trees and other vegetation within the Auckland region. Furthermore, the Department is not currently considering any future funding for the Maunga Authority for this purpose.

**Part 3:**

*Please list of all other funding that DOC has provided / intends to provide TMA. All I require for Part 3 is the \$\$ amount, date and a brief description (i.e. 1-2 sentences) of that what the funding.*

The Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 (the Act) provided for the ownership of 14 tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountains) to vest in an entity representing the interests of the 13 iwi comprising Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Tāmaki Collective). The Maunga Authority was established under the Act to govern the maunga.

Ownership of Maungauika/North Head transferred soon after passage of the Act, but for a period of time the Department continued to administer and manage the Historic Reserve. Responsibility for the administration and management of the Historic Reserve eventually



transferred to the Maunga Authority on 17 January 2019, as provided for under section 38 of the Act.

As part of the transfer, the Department provided a one-off grant of \$409,500 to the Maunga Authority to cover deferred maintenance and asset improvement costs for Maungauika / North Head Historic Reserve. The Department also agreed to continue to undertake maintenance of the site for a further two years from 1 July 2018 to the value of \$120,000 per annum.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents in the table above, subject to some information being withheld under the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- Section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and the attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

[Redacted]

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted signature]

Andrew Baucke  
Regional Operations Director, Auckland  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*