

TŪPUNA MAUNGA MEMORIALS AND PLAQUES POLICY

Policy

1. The Tūpuna Maunga Authority has adopted a policy that no new memorials or plaques that commemorate a person or event are to be placed on a Tūpuna Maunga.
2. The sole exception is that specified in the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 being a “cultural activity”.

Background

3. The Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 legislated the transfer of ownership of 14 Tūpuna Maunga to Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the 13 hapū/iwi of Tāmaki Makaurau).
4. The Act establishes and appoints the Maunga Authority as the administering body for the Tūpuna Maunga under the Reserves Act 1977. In exercising its powers and carrying out its functions, the Maunga Authority must have regard to the spiritual, ancestral, cultural, customary, and historical significance of the Tūpuna Maunga to Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau.
5. The Tūpuna Maunga Authority is made up of 6 Mana Whenua representatives, 6 Auckland Council representatives and 1 non-voting Crown member. As the administering body, the Tūpuna Maunga Authority is responsible for decision-making and the governance of the Tūpuna Maunga and can implement its own policies concerning memorials and plaques on the Maunga.
6. The Policy applies to the Tūpuna Maunga being:
 - Te Ara Puera/Te Pane-o-Mataaho/Mangere Mountain
 - Matukutūruru/Wiri Mountain
 - Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill
 - Maungarei/Mount Wellington
 - Maungawhau/Mount Eden
 - Maungauika/North Head
 - Ōwairaka/Te Ahi-kā-a-Rakataura/ Mount Albert
 - Ōhinerau/Mount Hobson
 - Ōhūiarangi/Pigeon Mountain
 - Ōtāhuhu/Mount Richmond
 - Pukewīwī/Puketāpapa/Mount Roskill
 - Te Kōpuke/Tītīkōpuke/Mount St John
 - Takarunga/Mount Victoria
 - Te Tātua a Riukiuta/Big King.

Rationale

7. The rationale for the policy is as follows:

- Tūpuna Maunga hold paramount place in the historical, spiritual, ancestral and cultural identity of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau. They are taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down the generations) to be protected and revered.
- The Tūpuna Maunga and the wider volcanic field are unique on a global scale. The Tūpuna Maunga are among the most treasured and distinctive natural and modified connected landscape features of Tāmaki Makaurau and creates and contributes to Aucklanders' sense of pride, 'place' and home.
- The primary focus of the management of the Tūpuna Maunga is the protection of the health and well-being of the Tūpuna Maunga. Memorials and plaques draw the focus away from this objective.
- The Tūpuna Maunga are publicly accessible natural spaces which enable pursuits with whānau, friends or individually, and these qualities are highly valued by people.
- The Tūpuna Maunga Authority's policy promotes the focus upon the Tūpuna Maunga as intrinsic treasures.
- The Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Tūpuna Maunga Integrated Management Plan, adopted in 2016, requires the Authority to consider whether any new or existing structures on Tūpuna Maunga are appropriate and should be constructed or removed. This consideration requires an analysis of whether any new or existing structure respects the cultural, historical, and spiritual values of the Tūpuna Maunga.

Implementation

8. No new memorials and plaques will be approved by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. Requesters will instead be offered an opportunity to plant a tree as part of an Authority planting programme.
9. The policy will also be implemented through the removal of any memorials or plaques installed since August 2014 without approval of the Authority unless they are approved structures as a "cultural activity" as provided for in Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014.
10. In the case of the treatment of pre-August 2014 memorials and plaques, the Authority will consider them on a case by case basis and in discussion with the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust.

Definitions

11. In this policy:

- Plaques are structures or fixtures such as flat tablets of metal, stone or other similar material which includes text and/or images. These are to commemorate or recognise an important place, person, organisation or event by providing information interpreting the placement of the plaque in relation to the place, person, organisation or event being commemorated.
- Memorials are objects, structures, or fixtures established in memory of a person or event. This can include remembrance structures such as park furniture and memorial trees or plants.