



the maunga.

Avian experts have slammed the felling's timing. It's set to happen in the middle of nesting season, when birds are at their most vulnerable.

Bird scientist Dr Lyn Miller, the general manager of Green Bay Bird Rescue, implored the TMA to delay any felling until February as the disturbance would "traumatise" birds and drive them from the mountain for good.

"You've got nesting going on, there are going to be babies all through those trees. You're going to have abandonment. Fledglings will die," she said.

The protesters also maintained community consultation on what the TMA planned to do on the mountain had been poor. Radford said she was not informed of the felling until a note appeared in her mailbox in late October, and that to date the





wildlife habitats for generations to come".

The protesters don't disagree with the TMA's long-term vision, but objected to it happening in one fell swoop. The TMA intended to remove all 345 exotic trees by mid-December.

Locals have strong connections to many of the slated trees – including oaks, cherries, olives and eucalypts – and worry about the impact losing so many at once will have on the mountain's birds, said Radford. Tui, morepork, kaka, fantails and kereru live on the maunga.

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