

1 OCT 2019

OIA19-0547

Ben Goldson  
fyi-request-11130-9d371d0d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ben Goldson

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request on 3 September 2019 relating to kauri dieback disease. I shall quote and respond to each part of your request.

The Kauri Dieback Programme is a partnership between central government, local government and tangata whenua which leads collaboration with landowners, communities, recreational forest users, business operators, scientists, Mātauranga Māori experts and educators. The partners include Biosecurity New Zealand – a business unit of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

After wide public consultation, the Minister for Biosecurity is currently considering a proposal to strengthen protection for kauri by introducing a National Pest Management Plan for kauri dieback disease. This would allow national co-ordination and the use of the strongest compliance powers available. Below are the relevant links to the website that relate to your questions:

1. *What is the history of the government's awareness of kauri dieback spread across New Zealand?*

For information on the history of the government's awareness of the spread of kauri dieback disease across New Zealand, see:

[www.kauridieback.co.nz/kauri-dieback-programme-timeline/](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/kauri-dieback-programme-timeline/)

2. *What is the history of the government's approach to fighting kauri dieback?*

For information on the history of the government's approach to fighting kauri dieback disease, see:

[www.kauridieback.co.nz/kauri-dieback-programme-timeline/](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/kauri-dieback-programme-timeline/)

3. *What is the government's estimation of the extent of the damage done by kauri dieback?*

For information on the government's estimate of the extent of kauri dieback disease, see:

[www.kauridieback.co.nz/kauri-locations/](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/kauri-locations/)

**Biosecurity New Zealand**  
**Readiness and Response Services**  
Charles Fergusson Building, 34-38 Bowen Street  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

4. *At any point did an entity other than MPI, governmental or non-governmental, advocate for keeping parks containing kauri open against the advice of experts?*

A number of entities and individuals have at various times advocated, publicly, for keeping parks containing kauri open, while others have advocated, publicly, for areas to be closed to the public. This is a matter of public debate. The information about this is publicly available and is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, *that the information requested is publicly available*. However, below is some general information about access to areas with kauri.

MPI does not manage land, including parks containing kauri. The Department of Conservation, regional authorities and iwi manage public land where kauri grow. Questions about specific areas should be directed to the owner or manager of the land.

In general, land owners and managers may close tracks so they can better protect kauri in areas where there is a high risk of infection spreading, or to upgrade tracks, add or improve cleaning stations, or reduce the spread of mud in wet weather. Mana whenua – Māori with the right to make decisions about an area – may restrict public access in a protective measure often called a rāhui.

For more information about track closures, see:

<https://www.kauridieback.co.nz/track-closures/>

Land owners and managers may also issue Controlled Area Notices, which mean people must follow rules in certain areas to help stop the spread of kauri dieback disease.

For more information on Controlled Area Notices, see

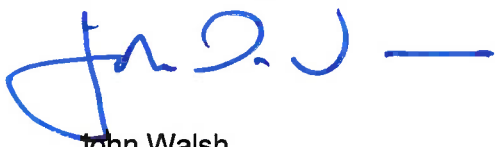
[www.kauridieback.co.nz/doing-more-to-protect-kauri/](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/doing-more-to-protect-kauri/)

Everyone who visits areas with kauri should:

- **Scrub** and clean all soil off your footwear and other gear, every time you enter or leave an area with native trees, and at every cleaning station – regardless of where you've been.
- **Spray** your footwear with disinfectant – only after you have removed all the soil.
- **Stay** on open tracks and keep off kauri roots – they can grow outwards three times as far as the branches.

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available. You have the right under section 28(1) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse part of your request.

Yours sincerely



John Walsh  
Director, Readiness and Response Services