

Tiakina Kauri Governance Group Meeting

Meeting Notes

Date	10 September 2026	Time	10am- 3pm
Chair	Ben Reddiex		
Governance members	Alan Cockle - Southern Mana Whenua (Māori co-Chair) Ben Reddiex - DOC (Crown co-Chair) Snow Tane - Kauri Ora CoLab Sandra Heihei - Te Tai Tokerau Rachel Kelleher - Regional Councils Ken Hughey - Science Community		
Tiakina Kauri / MPI	John Walsh - Director Pest Management, Biosecurity New Zealand Michael Hogg - Manager, Tiakina Kauri Management Agency Chanchal Chawla - Programme Coordinator, Tiakina Kauri Management Agency Barry Wards - Principal Adviser, Tiakina Kauri Management Agency Catileya Clark - Compliance Lead, Tiakina Kauri Management Agency		
Observers	Brent Beaven - DOC Debbie Martin - CoLab		
Apologies	Jill Taylor		
Venue	MPI Auckland Office – Maurice Wilson Ave		

Key discussion and decisions -

1. Introduction and Welcome - Chairs

- The meeting was opened with a karakia led by Alan Cockle.
- Alan acknowledged the significant contribution of Olive Heihei to the Kauri protection programme and the wider governance whānau.
- The group welcomed Snow Tane to the board as representative for the Kauri Ora CoLab.
- Apologies were noted from Jill Taylor.
- Rachel noted she would be temporarily absent and rejoin after lunch.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the previous Governance Group meeting held on 19 March 2026 were confirmed as an accurate record.
- All actions were completed or underway, including governance appointments, NPMP review responses, council engagement, operational planning, and risk register updates. The group agreed to close item 3 and not respond in writing to the NPMP review.

Action 1: Circulate Ian Horner's presentation on Kauri Dieback management.

3. Update on Strategic Context

Kauri Ora Colab – Snow Tane

- **Snow** provided an update on the Rākau Rangatira Project in Waipoua Forest. Phase 1 (completed) included the construction of the Tāne Mahuta viewing platform. Phase 2 works are progressing well, with completion anticipated by November and reopening targeted before Christmas. Planning for Phase 3 is also progressing and will connect key visitor sites into a single integrated visitor experience.
- **Debbie** advised the Colab has secured a grant from Foundation North for 12 months of funding, enabling the programme to continue at current levels. Programme management responsibilities have transitioned from Te Roroa to Te Rarawa as part of partner capability-sharing arrangements.

Department of Conservation- Ben Reddiex

- **Ben** advised that DOC's new Director-General, Peter Chrisp, has started and has prioritised engagement across the country to better understand regional conservation issues and opportunities. Ben noted that increased investment in conservation outcomes remains a key focus for DOC.
- DOC and MPI have commenced work on a National Wild Animals Framework in response to increasing deer and pest animal populations, with opportunities for greater regional collaboration.
- **Brent Beavan** advised that DOC is redeveloping its Kauri Protection Strategy and will work closely with Tiakina Kauri to ensure alignment with future programme strategy.
- Surveillance activity has been paused this year to allow greater focus on long-term surveillance planning and phosphite treatment strategies.
- A review of DOC's Kauri protection assets and mitigations is being undertaken to improve reporting and performance tracking.

Science and Research Update- Ken Hughey

Key discussion and decisions -

- **Ken** noted that Science system reform within PRO's is taking longer than expected and may affect future research priorities and capability, especially within the short-medium term.
- He highlighted the increasing importance of universities as sources of innovation and future solutions for Kauri Dieback management (with particular reference to the NOP). Victoria University, the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, and the University of Auckland were identified as institutions with relevant expertise and research capacity.
- **Barry** advised that the existing Science Plan is being refreshed into a broader Science Strategy focused on operational delivery, practical outcomes, and adaptive management.

Regional Council Update- Rachel Kelleher

- **Rachel** updated members on the ongoing impact of significant RMA and local government reforms which has the potential to impact the programme.
- Noted that like central government, local and regional bodies are facing financial pressures uncertainty regarding future. Rates-capping proposals and reviews of targeted rates may have an impact.
- Noted new leaders in regional biosecurity, Kane McErea at NRC and Hamish Lass at BOPRC

Southern and Northern Kauri Lands Update- Alan Cockle and Sandra Heihei

- **Alan** provided an update on Southern Kauri Lands projects following recent discussions with project partners. He reported that many initiatives have now been successfully completed, delivering positive outcomes across the region, although some projects remain constrained by funding availability.
- **Sandra** emphasised the importance of iwi leadership, partnership approaches, and locally led delivery as future strategic planning progresses.

Funding and Programme Sustainability- John Walsh

- **John** confirmed \$1.5 million has been secured for 26/27 FY by BNZ, acting as bridging finance, and providing short-term certainty for programme delivery.
- Members discussed the likelihood of continued budget constraints and the need to explore alternative funding models, including Crown investment, International Visitor Levy (IVL) funding, philanthropic contributions, and other funding sources.

Action 2: Monitor future IVL funding opportunities and revisit potential funding requests when appropriate.

Action 3: Continue development of long-term programme funding options and bring discussion papers to Governance.

4,5.6. Response to the findings of NPMP Review, Preparation of the FY25/26 Annual Report, National Operational Plan Review and Proposed Way Forward (Barry)

Overview

- **Barry Wards** presented the three governance papers as a connected package supporting the next phase of programme development.
- He noted that the programme has established strong foundations and now needs to focus on demonstrating outcomes and impacts rather than reporting activities and outputs alone.
- Members agreed that significant programme redesign was not required, but stronger prioritisation, sequencing, and performance measurement were needed.
-

Programme Reporting and Outcome Measurement

- **Ken** supported the shift from output-based reporting to outcome-based reporting, noting that existing measures tend to focus on activity rather than impact.
- **Debbie** noted that funded groups already provide substantial reporting and sought clarification regarding perceived reporting gaps.
- **Barry** advised that while activity reporting is generally strong, the programme currently lacks measures that demonstrate progress towards long-term outcomes and impacts. He also noted that current annual reporting is largely focused on Tiakina Kauri activities and not an overview of the national programme.
- Members agreed that future reporting should better reflect collective programme outcomes and provide a stronger national picture of programme effectiveness and investment.
- The need for meaningful performance indicators capable of measuring progress towards achieving outcomes was recognised.
- *Members supported the transition towards outcome-focused reporting and recognised that implementation would be an iterative process over several years.*

National Reporting Framework and Partner Contributions

- The current annual report largely reflects Tiakina Kauri-funded activities and does not adequately represent the wider national kauri protection effort.
- Future reporting should acknowledge contributions from regional councils, iwi organisations, community groups, philanthropic funders, and other programme partners.
- **Debbie** emphasised the importance of transparency when reporting externally funded activities.
- **Snow** highlighted opportunities and challenges associated with incorporating externally funded projects while respecting data sovereignty requirements.
- **Sandra** discussed the importance of recognising the in-kind contributions and investments made by iwi and tangata whenua partners.
- **Barry** confirmed that contributors would have the opportunity to review information before publication to ensure accuracy and appropriate representation

Members supported the proposed broader reporting framework and acknowledged its importance for demonstrating the full scale of national investment and activity.

Capacity, Capability and Iwi Leadership

- Members discussed the impact of declining funding on iwi leadership and organisational capability.
- **Snow** raised concerns regarding capability loss within several iwi organisations following the completion of previous funding arrangements.
- Members noted the importance of maintaining engagement with iwi groups, including those not currently receiving programme funding.
- Mike advised that limited funding remains available and that work is underway to maintain relationships and leadership engagement despite reduced funding.
- **Barry** confirmed that iwi leadership and capability development remains a priority within programme planning.
- Debbie noted that capability challenges represent an ongoing programme risk that should continue to be monitored.

Governance Group members supported continued focus on iwi leadership and agreed that maintaining engagement across all partner groups should remain a priority.

NPMP Review Response Paper

- Members agreed that the paper accurately reflected the key recommendations arising from the NPMP Review.
- The six priority areas identified within the paper represented the appropriate focus for future programme improvement.
- It was noted that implementation activities should be prioritised and staged to ensure deliverability within existing programme capacity and resources.

Decisions

The Governance Group:

- ***Noted the findings of the NPMP Review and progress in responding to them.***
- ***Endorsed the proposed priorities for the next phase of programme development.***
- ***Asked management agency to develop a prioritised implementation roadmap for Governance consideration.***
- ***Requested regular reporting on implementation progress against the agreed priority areas.***

Annual Report Development

- Members noted that preparation of the Annual Report is underway and acknowledged it as a statutory requirement under the National Pest Management Plan.
- Members supported transitioning to a broader outcomes-focused reporting model while maintaining continuity with previous reports.
- Discussion included opportunities to strengthen the report through programme narratives, governance updates, and introductory messages from programme leadership and potentially the Minister.
- Members agreed that a stronger national narrative would support future funding discussions and demonstrate programme value to a broader audience.

Members supported the proposed transitional reporting approach and the longer-term direction toward a comprehensive national reporting framework.

Decision

The Governance Group:

- ***Noted*** that preparation of the FY25/26 Annual Report has commenced and that the report will begin transitioning toward broader reporting against NPMP objectives, NOP priorities, and programme outcomes.
- ***Endorsed*** the proposed reporting approach outlined in the attached Governance paper.
- ***Noted*** that implementation will be progressive and dependent on information from programme partners, with the final report to be submitted to the Minister by 30 November 2026.

National Operational Plan Review and Proposed Way Forward

- Members noted that the paper had been circulated with tracked changes, which was considered helpful.
- A concern was raised regarding wording in Section 9.1 relating to data access arrangements, noting that proposed data-sharing agreements have not yet been fully implemented.
- Members suggested that future versions of the document clearly identify review and update dates.
- Technical and operational comments will be provided directly to the Management Agency.
- The Management Agency confirmed that consultation would occur through the Operational Advisory Group (OAG) before final approval.
- Members discussed the importance of maintaining a strong connection between Governance and the OAG to ensure visibility of operational matters and recommendations.
- The Management Agency advised that Governance and OAG feedback would be considered together before finalising the document.

Decision

The Governance Group:

- ***Noted*** the findings of the review of the National Operational Plan and the proposed amendments.
- ***Confirmed*** that the amended National Operational Plan remains fit for purpose as the primary implementation document for the National PA Management Plan.
- ***Recommended*** the amended National Operational Plan for stakeholder consultation and subsequent approval by the appropriate delegated authority.
- ***Noted*** that further improvements to performance measurement, reporting and programme implementation will be progressed through ongoing review and continuous improvement.

Action 4: Management Agency to share draft reporting framework with governance members and partners for feedback.

Key discussion and decisions -

- Action 5:** Governance members to provide any additional feedback on the National Operational Plan to Mike Hogg and Barry by the end of the following week (i.e., Friday 18 September 2026).
- Action 6:** Management Agency to circulate the current membership of the Operational Advisory Group (OAG) to Governance members.
- Action 7:** Management Agency to provide a follow-up briefing to absent members, including Rachel, on matters discussed during the meeting.
- Action 8:** Retain update to NPMP review implementation as Standing Agenda item.

7. Priority Areas and Compliance Framework- Catileya Clark

Compliance Framework Overview – Refer attached slide deck

- **Cat Clark** presented the proposed two-tier compliance model for the National Pest Management Plan (NPMP). The model proposes that frontline compliance activities continue to be delivered by local authorities, DOC, mana whenua, and programme partners, while serious or repeat non-compliance is referred to MPI and Tiakina Kauri for investigation and potential enforcement action.
- Frontline compliance activities would include:
 - Education and awareness activities
 - Monitoring and compliance checks
 - Initial compliance responses
 - Escalation and reporting of serious non-compliance
- The NPMP compliance framework was discussed, including education, engagement, monitoring, compliance checks, escalation pathways, and enforcement provisions. PA Risk Management Plans and Earthworks Risk Management Plans were highlighted as key compliance priorities.
- The VADE compliance model was presented, emphasising voluntary compliance and education before progressing to enforcement actions where required.
- **Mike** emphasised that compliance should be viewed as more than an enforcement function. He noted that the primary objective is to support stakeholders to understand and apply risk management requirements effectively, reducing the need for enforcement action. Particular importance was placed on ensuring appropriate Risk Management Plans are developed and implemented for high-risk activities.
- **Cat** advised that awareness of NPMP obligations remains relatively low among some landowners and contractors, particularly in relation to earthworks activities within kauri risk areas.
- **Snow** highlighted ongoing compliance challenges in Waipoua Forest, including visitors leaving designated tracks around Tāne Mahuta. He noted that the proposed model would provide a clearer escalation pathway and stronger support for frontline staff responding to non-compliance.

Key discussion and decisions -

- **Cat** highlighted that mana whenua already plays a significant role in education and engagement activities. However, issuing formal infringement notices requires authorised person status, supported by appropriate training, experience, and competency assessments.
 - **Brent** confirmed DOC's support for the proposed compliance direction and advised that DOC is increasing the number of authorised compliance personnel. He noted that risk management planning, track management, and proactive compliance activities already form a significant component of DOC's operational approach.
 - **Rachael stated** that compliance functions have historically been underfunded, despite being recognised as a key governance priority.
 - Explained that regional councils differ significantly in their ability to deliver compliance functions.
 - Highlighted challenges engaging district councils, particularly in earthworks-related compliance.
 - Suggested greater investment in compliance capability and engagement if future funding becomes available.
 - Recommended increased investment in compliance capability, capacity, and stakeholder engagement should additional funding become available.
 - Suggested undertaking a review of current compliance activities, assessing existing capability and gaps, developing a plan to improve performance, and identifying opportunities for targeted funding to support compliance priorities.
 - **John Walsh** emphasised that compliance responsibilities were an intended component of the NPMP framework when it was established and that councils were expected to contribute compliance functions and resources
 - Members agreed that implementation remains the key challenge and that future compliance activity should be guided by a risk-based approach, with particular focus on NPMP Rules 3, 4 and 5
-
- ***Members agreed that the proposed two-tier compliance model provides a practical framework for managing compliance across the national programme.***
 - ***There was broad agreement that priority effort should focus on high-risk activities and proactive compliance measures rather than enforcement alone.***
 - ***Members supported developing a clearer understanding of current compliance activities, capability gaps, implementation requirements, and resourcing needs.***

Decision

- ***Endorsed the recommended Option 1, a two-tier compliance model and associated Roles and Responsibilities Framework for the delivery of compliance and enforcement functions under the NPMP.***
- ***Endorsed the proposed priority compliance areas and identify any amendments required to support effective implementation of the compliance framework.***
- ***Noted that the recommended two-tier approach cannot currently be fully implemented by all partners due to identified capability, capacity, and resource constraints.***
- ***Supported a risk-based compliance approach.***
- ***Directed the Management Agency to develop a detailed implementation roadmap.***

Key discussion and decisions -

- *Directed the Management Agency to provide regular progress reporting and dashboard-style monitoring.*

Action 9: Retain compliance as a standing agenda item at Governance meetings.

Action 10: Develop a detailed implementation plan outlining priority compliance areas, responsibilities, tactics, capability requirements, and potential resourcing needs.

Action 11: Strengthen engagement between Regional Councils, District Councils, and Tiakina Kauri to support consistent compliance delivery across the system.

8. Any Other Businesses

- **Sandra** Heihei sought clarification on the process for appointing members to the Governance Group following the completion of her term.
- Members were advised that work is underway to manage the upcoming governance transition. Mike Nathan is coordinating the process in collaboration with key stakeholders, including Alan Cockle and Snow Tane.
- It was noted that the position is nominated by constituent iwi, followed by an election process among eligible representatives.
- **Mike Hogg** advised that the Governance section of the programme website will be refreshed to improve transparency and accessibility of governance information, including the publication of Governance agendas, meeting minutes, and key governance documents to provide greater visibility of Governance activities and decisions.

Alan Cockle closed the meeting with Karakia

9. Next meeting

- It was proposed that the next meeting take place before Christmas and be held online.
- A scheduling poll would be circulated following the meeting.

Details of next meetings

Date	Venue
November/December	Online

Action list

#	Actions	Who	By when	Status
1.	Circulate Ian Horner's presentation on Kauri Dieback management.	Mike Hogg	With minutes	
2.	Monitor future IVL funding opportunities and revisit potential funding requests when appropriate.	Governance Members		
3.	Continue development of long-term programme funding options and bring discussion papers to Governance.	Management Agency		
4.	Management Agency to share draft reporting framework with governance members and partners for feedback	Management Agency		
5.	Governance members to provide any additional feedback on the National Operational Plan to Mike Hogg and Barry.	Governance Members	Friday 18 th Sept	
6.	Management Agency to circulate the current membership of the Operational Advisory Group (OAG) to Governance members.	Management Agency	With Minutes	
7.	Management Agency to provide a follow-up briefing to absent members, including Rachel, on matters discussed during the meeting.	Management Agency	Scheduled	
8.	Retain update to NPMP review implementation as Standing Agenda item.	Management Agency		
9.	Retain compliance as a standing agenda item at Governance meetings.	Management Agency		
10.	Develop a detailed implementation plan outlining priority compliance areas, responsibilities, tactics, capability requirements, and potential resourcing needs.	Management Agency		
11.	Strengthen engagement between Regional Councils, District Councils, and Tiakina Kauri to support consistent compliance delivery across the system.	Regional Council and Management Agency		