



Memorandum

Ref:	Kauri Dieback Programme
From:	Accelerated Protection for Kauri Dieback team
Date:	15 February 2019
Subject:	Refreshed kauri dieback strategy

OUR STRATEGY

Vision:

Ko te kauri he whakaruruhau mō nga lwi katoa - The kauri is a shelter for all people
Kia toitū te whenua - So that the land endures
Kia toitū te kauri - So that the kauri endures

Goal:

Remove the threat of kauri dieback, so that the mauri and health of New Zealand kauri forests is restored beyond the next 1000 years.

Primary objective:

To reduce the harmful effects of *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA) by preventing, where possible, the spread of PA and minimising its impacts on New Zealand's kauri forests, our culture, our communities and economy.

Secondary objectives:

1. Reduce the spread of kauri dieback
2. Maintain kauri dieback-free areas
3. Reduce the impact of kauri dieback within infected sites
4. Locally eliminate kauri dieback within infected sites, where possible
5. Protect iconic kauri trees and stands with special values from kauri dieback

Background

The Kauri Protection Strategy has been refreshed to make protection activities more kauri focused, and in recognition that a longer term approach is needed and voluntary actions were not working to prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease.

It is also the result of two rounds of public consultation and ongoing engagement with the Kauri Dieback Programme Partners, the Kauri Dieback Governance Group, the programme's independent advisory panel, and two working groups. It also aligns with the New Zealand Biosecurity Strategy.

The refresh process showed two important things: first, an immense amount of good will and activity is happening on the ground now and future protection activities need to tap into this energy. Second, a strict biosecurity response is inadequate and we need to look beyond just a biosecurity mandate to understand and access the full toolbox available to protect kauri.

As a result, the strategy incorporates a very long time frame compared to other long term strategies, a range of regulatory and voluntary approaches, and a recognition that protection activities are likely to be more successful when dealt with at a regional or local level, but under the canopy of national guidance and central funding, as only the Government has the capacity to fund long term programmes at the level and scope needed.

The new national agency will have to organise its activities and implement the national kauri protection plan in a way that supports the strategy. It will also monitor performance so we can be sure the strategy is effective in protecting kauri. The strategy is not just for the agency; it also provides direction for community groups, iwi, councils and individuals in their kauri protection activities.

What's new

In summary, the strategy sets the overall direction for our work to protect kauri and describes the way we propose to work together to provide protection for kauri.

We put forward a draft refreshed strategy in round two of consultation. The strategy we have now settled on is broadly the same. Some minor changes have been made to reflect feedback received in consultation and advice from our working groups and independent panel.

We've changed the strategy to introduce the goal of eliminating the threat of kauri dieback, because stakeholders said we needed to match the 1000 year scope of the strategy with an ambitious goal. A number of submitters and stakeholders said we should aim to eliminate the cause of kauri dieback disease. We've refined that to remove the 'threat of kauri dieback'. This recognises that we might never be able to completely remove the organism, but we can aim to stop it devastating our forests.

We've also reduced the number of objectives to make them more precise and remove repetition.

Ownership and implementation of the strategy

This strategy is made by the current Kauri Dieback Management Programme, which includes: the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, Northland Regional Council, Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Roroa and Tangata Whenua Roopu. It is intended that this refreshed strategy will transfer over to the management agency responsible for implementing the National Pest Management Plan for Kauri Dieback Disease, once identified. The management agency, once operational, will be responsible for developing the implementation plan and performance measures.

What do these objectives mean?

1. Reduce the spread of kauri dieback
Reducing the spread of this disease as much as possible, primarily by controlling the spread of soil between sites
2. Maintain kauri dieback-free areas
Creating sanctuaries of kauri dieback-free areas is important to the survival of kauri. They could be living seed banks or places for research.
3. Reduce the impact of kauri dieback within infected sites.
We can give uninfected kauri a fighting chance even if the fungus is found in the area, through controlling access or building tracks.
4. Locally eliminate kauri dieback within infected sites, where possible
It may be that we can develop treatments that are effective in defined areas at reducing and possibly eradicating the disease.
5. Protect iconic kauri trees and stands with special values from kauri dieback
These trees and places need to be identified and special measures taken to protect them because they have important cultural or scientific values.

How will we achieve these objectives?

We will achieve these objectives by investing in five thematic areas that align with the themes of the Biosecurity 2025 strategy:

1. Effective co-governance and leadership for kauri
2. A team of 4.7 million New Zealanders and our visitors taking action and supporting the protection of kauri
3. Better knowledge and tools in the hands of people protecting kauri
4. Free flow of information to enable the protection of kauri
5. Growing our community skills, capability and capacity to protect kauri

What do these thematic areas mean?

A. Effective co-governance and leadership for kauri

Through a structure of distributed leadership, we will partner with Treaty partners, supported also by community groups, regional and national bodies, to encourage localised solutions, decision making and responsibility for kauri protection. By involving more people in decision making – each bringing their own toolbox of legislative and practical solutions – we will be able to bring better protection for kauri.

What does this look like on the ground?

- A management agency structured to provide for national leadership and consistency through a structure of distributed leadership and decentralised decision making, locating decision making at the closest reasonable level to its impact.
- A management agency that works with Treaty partners, DOC and councils to combine our regulatory toolboxes to provide the proper legal protection for kauri.
- The number of people working and living and on kauri lands feel like they are (able to be) included in decision making about management of the disease and providing leadership to protect kauri.

Providing coordination, accountability and an environment for constant learning across the leadership cadre

Clear policies, standards and protocols – developed with in input from all stakeholders - at a national level will provide national consistency where needed, enabling clear reporting of outcomes and progress. Clear, transparent and accountable practices will support regional and local decision making. Regular monitoring will encourage constant learning.

What does this look like on the ground?

- Strategies, policies and procedures are developed - in consultation with impacted parties - and implemented to provide direction for protection activities.
- Ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of these documents and periodic reviews helps us learn, make improvements to our practices, and improve leadership at all levels.

B. A team of 4.7 million New Zealanders and our visitors taking action and supporting the protection of kauri

Kauri brings people together for a variety of reasons – emotional, spiritual, environmental, or for the simple enjoyment of walking in a kauri forest. Whatever our reason, bringing people together and providing them with tools where need, support where requested, and a voice in decision making where desired will be fundamental to enabling the locally driven change needed for kauri.

We will make available to the public easy to read and easily accessible information about the work that is happening to manage kauri dieback and continue to look at ways we can broaden out-reach and build best practice throughout the response, including through targeting specific groups that either provide opportunities or pose a risk (or both!).

C. Better knowledge and tools in the hands of people protecting kauri

Knowledge comes in many forms. We define it is as being an investment in matauranga, social and physical science, behavioural change, and innovation. All are key to building our knowledge and plugging gaps in our understanding of this disease and how we can treat and hopefully eradicate it.

We will foster open learning within and by communities by making science readily available in easily digestible language and encouraging initiatives that put science into practice, creating a learning platform for communities to feed information into to create learning loop.

D. Free flow of information to enable the protection of kauri

We will provide open access to all policies, SOPs and other operational documentation - as well as science research - and pre-emptively making available information in creative and interactive ways.

We will develop tools and procedures that are based on best practice and underpinning research and monitoring the effectiveness of the tools currently used and learning from this to continually improve practices.

E. Growing our community skills, capability and capacity to protect kauri

We will invest in educational programmes in schools, encouraging activities such as a 'adopt a track' programme including by working with iwi and hapu to empower kaitiaki and tohunga to protect and engage with their lands.

We will make available funding for community, iwi/hapu and regional bodies for discretionary one-off activities and longer term programmatic funding including through sourcing philanthropic funding to support community enterprises. Broader educational opportunities will also be supported through accredited courses.