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 **National PA Pest Management Plan**

**FAQs 2 August 2022**

 **What is a National Pest Management Plan (NPMP)?**

* A national pest management plan (NPMP) is a biosecurity regulation that can be made under the Biosecurity Act 1993. NPMPs are used for tackling major biosecurity threats and are the strongest form of regulation that the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) can put in place for an established pest.
* The disease commonly known as kauri ‘dieback’ disease is caused by a fungus-like pathogen called *Phytophthora Agathidicida* (PA for short). The NPMP is therefore called the National PA Pest Management Plan.

**Why an NPMP?**

* There has been great work done to date across Aotearoa, New Zealand, to protect kauri trees and forests. An NPMP gives us the opportunity to do much more to protect kauri and the ngahere/forest and to support our beautiful country.
* Implementing a national pest management plan is the strongest form of protection available under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to help protect kauri from the disease caused by the PA pathogen.
* The NPMP is a legal framework that establishes clear national objectives and a nationally co-ordinated and consistent approach to managing the risk and impacts of PA to New Zealand’s kauri forests, our culture, our communities and our economy. It will give access to powers under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to require specific actions of people that use, or come into contact with, kauri trees and forests; and provides a clear focus for funding.

**Who will manage/implement the NPMP?**

* Tiakina Kauri, the management agency for the NPMP, is part of Biosecurity New Zealand. Tiakina Kauri will lead and co-ordinate a collaborative effort between Government, councils, iwi, hapū, whānau and non-government organisations in the shared goal of protecting kauri. It will ensure everyone is at the decision-making table and involved in the strategic direction and day-to-day response.

**What consultation was undertaken about the NPMP?**

* A full public consultation process was undertaken in 2018 and 2019. You can read about it here: [Consultation | Kauri Dieback (kauriprotection.co.nz)](https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/national-pest-management-plan/).
* After funding was secured in Budget 2021, refinements were made to ensure the proposed plan was current and would meet the legislative requirements for an order in council.

**What’s in the NPMP?**

* The Biosecurity Act 1993 sets out what can be included in an NPMP. An NPMP must name the pest, describe the impact that it is having and how the pest is going to be managed, who is going to manage the pest and how management of the pest will be funded.
* An NPMP can introduce rules regarding what people can do *with* the pest - or *in* areas where the pest might be – and it allows for the use of particular Biosecurity Act 1993 powers by Tiakina Kauri, authorised persons and inspectors.
* The National PA Pest Management Plan has ten rules. More information on these is below.
* Tiakina Kauri continues to fund a range of kauri protection activities, including those that build capability and capacity among mana whenua to lead kauri protection locally, enhancing surveillance and monitoring, leveraging research efforts into operation, on ground mitigation works, and the development of guides, policies and standards.

**Where will the NPMP apply?**

* Kauri is naturally distributed across northern New Zealand approximately north of the 38 parallel – recognised as ‘kauri lands’ (Northland, Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty). The PA pathogen has been detected in many locations within a wide range of kauri forests.
* Three rules will apply nationally. Those rules will assist in ensuring the location of the disease is known and ensure the disease isn’t accidentally spread through the national transfer of kauri seedlings and plants.
* For the purposes of practicality, the NPMP will mostly apply only to those council areas within kauri lands, in the boundaries of: Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, Auckland and Northland. Seven rules apply to specific activities in this area.

**NPMP rules that apply across New Zealand**

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| **Rule**  | **Rule name** | **Intent of the rule** |
| **1** | **Obligation to report** | If you recognise that a kauri tree or plant on land you own, lease or are living on looks unhealthy you need to advise Tiakina Kauri, a biosecurity inspector or an authorised person. Information is available [here](https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/recognising-symptoms/) to help identify what the disease looks like. If in doubt, get in touch with your local regional council.  |
| **2** | **Provision of Information** | Tiakina Kauri, a biosecurity inspector or an authorised person may ask you for information. This request will be restricted to information that helps manage kauri disease caused by the PA pathogen and include questions on the movement of risk items. You will need to provide this information if asked, or explain why you cannot, if this is not possible. |
| **3** | **Restriction on the movement of kauri** | If you are growing kauri plants/trees for moving to and/or re-planting at a different location, there is a set of hygiene practices you need to follow to ensure you don’t inadvertently spread the PA pathogen. A production plan detailing these practices needs to be filled out and followed in order for kauri to be moved safely. The production plan is based on existing [NZPPI](https://nzppi.co.nz/) standards. This rule applies to any kauri grown after 2 August 2022. |

 **NPMP rules that apply only in ‘kauri lands’ (Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty)**

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| **Rule**  | **Rule name** | **Intent of the rule** |
| **4** | **PA risk management plans** | This rule means that areas that are infected, at risk of becoming infected, or creating a risk of spreading the PA pathogen to other properties may need to have a kauri risk management plan. In these cases, Tiakina Kauri will contact the landowner/occupier directly.  |
| **5** | **Earthworks PA risk management plan** | From 2 August 2023, if you want to undertake any earthworks within a ‘kauri hygiene zone’ (3x the radius of the dripline of a kauri tree canopy) you may need to submit an earthworks PA risk management plan. You won’t need to have an additional plan if your council already has rules in place to manage the risks of PA pathogen spread during earthworks. Tiakina Kauri will work with district councils to try to incorporate this requirement into/alongside any other council permissions required for earthworks.Note: this rule is being implemented on 2 August 2023 to allow people/businesses time to adopt best practice earthworks management processes. |
| **6** | **Stock exclusion notice** | This rule requires stock to be excluded from areas in which their movement poses a high risk of spreading the PA pathogen, eg. where PA has been detected in a kauri forest within 500m from where the stock can access that forest. For other high-risk situations, stock exclusion notices may be made on a case-by-case basis. |
| **7** | **Restriction on release of animals** | This rule prohibits the release of animals into kauri forest areas, building on the existing legislative prohibition on the release of animals into public forests. There are some exceptions, for example to allow the transfer of animals under a Department of Conservation permit.This rule does not restrict bringing dogs or companion animals into kauri forest areas but does require that dogs be in close contact and care of a person, as well as being free of visible soil and organic matter before entering - and after being in - the forest.  |
| **8** | **Obligation to clean items before entering or exiting kauri forest** | If you are going off track in a kauri forest area, or onto a track where you will touch the forest floor, this rule means that anything that comes into contact with the ground (eg. shoes, walking sticks, tyres) must be clean before you enter, and when you exit, the area.  |
| **9** | **Obligation to use cleaning stations** | If you see a hygiene station in a kauri forest area, eg. at the start or end of a track, you need to use it. Most commonly, the hygiene station will require you to clean your footwear using items such as brushes or sprays that have been provided.  |
| **10** | **Open tracks and roads in kauri forest** | This rule introduces minimum requirements for publicly accessible tracks and roads that go through kauri forest areas. Farm roads or tracks that are not open to the public are not affected by this rule.  |

**How is the NPMP being funded?**

* In Budget 2021, the Government committed $32 million over 5 years to implement a National PA Pest Management Plan for kauri protection. This $32 million complements the existing funding streams and allows for the establishment of Tiakina Kauri, and for activities including kauri research, surveillance and monitoring, and track upgrades and maintenance. The costs of running Tiakina Kauri are met by Biosecurity New Zealand.

**How will the NPMP be implemented?**

* Protecting kauri from the disease caused by the PA pathogen is everyone’s responsibility. Tiakina Kauri is partnering with mana whenua across kauri lands and working with councils and the Department of Conservation to ensure information about the NPMP is communicated and that there are processes and tools in place to support people to understand and follow the rules.

**What happens if I don't follow the rules of the NPMP?**

* Tiakina Kauri will initially focus on education and awareness rather than enforcement actions, to help people understand and adjust to the new rules and to reinforce good behaviours.
* A range of approaches will be used to encourage and support people to meet the requirements of the new rules before any enforcement actions are undertaken, except in cases of clear and continued non-compliance.
* Enforcement options include the issuing of an infringement notice and fine by an authorised person (for rules 8 and 9), or a person or organisation could be charged with an offence under the Biosecurity Act 1993, which could include a criminal conviction and/or a maximum fine of $5,000 for an individual or $15,000 for a corporation (for rules 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10).

**Do the NPMP rules impact me?**

For practical purposes the NPMP rules focus mainly on people who enter kauri forest areas, people who grow kauri trees/plants for sale, and people who live on (or own) land with kauri trees on it.

Here is a summary of how the 10 NPMP rules could apply to you:
 **> If you go into a kauri forest area from 2 August 2022**

* You must use hygiene stations you encounter before entering or leaving the kauri forest area. **(Rule 9)**
* If you are going off track, or onto a track where you will touch the forest floor, you must clean all visible soil/organic matter off ‘risk items’ that may touch the ground before you enter or leave the kauri forest area. ‘Risk items’ includes tools, cars, bikes, sticks, shoes, gloves etc. **(Rule 8)** Note: **i**f you stay on a wooden or gravel track and/or on a gravel road, this doesn’t apply.
* You may not release animals into kauri forest areas. **(Rule 7)** Note:this doesn’t apply to dogs under your control. This also doesn’t apply to grazing animals on your farm, as this is covered by Rule 6.

**> If you grow kauri plants/trees**

* All kauri plants/trees grown from 2 August 2022 onwards must be grown according to a kauri plant production plan if your intention is to move them later. **(Rule 3)**

Rules 1 and 2 will also apply if you grow kauri.

**> If you have kauri on land you live on or own**

* From 2 August 2022, if your kauri trees [look unhealthy](https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/recognising-symptoms/), you must [let Tiakina Kauri or your regional council know](https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/programme-contacts/). **(Rule 1)**
* From 2 August 2023, if you want to undertake any earthworks within a ‘kauri hygiene zone’ (3x the radius of the dripline of a kauri tree canopy) you must have an earthworks risk management plan. **(Rule 5)**

***From 2 August 2022, you may also need to do the following, if requested****:*

* Provide information to Tiakina Kauri to help manage kauri disease caused by the PA pathogen. **(Rule 2)**
* Develop a PA risk management plan in collaboration with Tiakina Kauri/an authorised person/your local council, if it is determined that such a plan is needed to help control the spread of - or limit the effects of - kauri disease caused by the PA pathogen on land you own or live on. **(Rule 4)**

**> If you own land with publicly accessible tracks/roads that go through kauri forest areas**

* From 2 August 2022, the national plan introduces minimum requirements for publicly accessible tracks and roads that go through kauri forest areas. **(Rule 10)**

**> If you own farm animals/stock that graze in or near a kauri forest**

* From 2 August 2022, if you have farm animals/stockwithin 500m of a PA positive site in a kauri forest, you will need to prevent your stock from accessing that kauri forest area. **(Rule 6)**

**What will the costs be?**

* Any costs that result from the introduction of the PA NPMP will depend on what practices you currently follow. Where possible, the rules have been written to align with existing good practices.

**What will happen to any information that I provide?**

* If you are asked to provide information to Tiakina Kauri, a biosecurity inspector or an authorised person, any information you provide will be kept secure and will only be used for the purposes for which it has been collected (i.e. to help manage kauri disease caused by the PA pathogen and stop the spread of the pathogen). No data that identifies the health status of kauri on private land will be released unless you explicitly agree to it.

**Will my research/conservation/other permit still be valid?**

* A number of different permits are issued for activities relating to kauri, PA, or in the ngahere/environment. The entry into force of the NPMP will not void your permit. However, you will need to ensure you meet any additional requirements. If in doubt about your obligations, please contact the issuer of the permit or Tiakina Kauri.

**How does the NPMP relate to the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity and Significant Natural Areas?**

* The NPMP works alongside resource management plans and the proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity to protect the kauri ecosystems of northern Aotearoa.  Tiakina Kauri will work with other agencies, iwi and stakeholders to align implementation of the NPMP with other (on the ground) activities.

**How does a rāhui fit with the PA NPMP coming into force?**

* At the heart of the NPMP is a partnership between Tiakina Kauri and Māori.  Working together, a range of measures will be used to provide the strongest protection for kauri, including the placing of rāhui in the ngahere to prevent the spread of the disease.

**Moving away from the term ‘dieback’ disease**

* To Māori, the word ‘dieback’ has a negative impact on the wellbeing of kauri and focuses on sickness rather than on keeping kauri healthy. The Kauri Dieback governance group agreed with advice from the tangata whenua roopu that Tiakina Kauri would move away from using the word ‘dieback’, towards language that promotes the health and protection of kauri. From late 2021 Tiakina Kauri have been phasing out the use of ‘dieback’ in their communications.