

Kauri disease pathogen found in Kaimai ranges

Introduction

Some tracks and forest are closing in Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park.

Date: 21 July 2023

[See media release in te reo Māori](#)

Q Provisional positive test results have detected *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA) – the pathogen responsible for kauri disease – on a track near the Wharawhara entrance of Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park, near Tauranga.

P This means some tracks and forest will be closing immediately.

The test results, found as part of soil sampling on the track, were unexpected and are significant as PA has previously been undetected in the Kaimai Mamaku ranges.

“We are working with iwi to support a rāhui with formal track and forest closures. The closures will allow us time to conduct further testing in the area and to make informed decisions for what might happen next.”

“By restricting access, we are trying to limit any further spread of the pathogen that causes the disease, which is carried on as little as a pinhead of soil.”

“We understand how special it is to have rākau rangatira such as kauri within the rohe, we all have a role to play in protecting these special giants. Together with Iwi and local communities we are committed to doing what we must to limit further spread of the pathogen – an all-hands-on deck approach to respect the rāhui will be key as we navigate forward over the next while” says Jade Kinghazel, Operations Director, Eastern North Island.

A review on the closures will be made after 10 weeks (29 September).

The rāhui and closure will allow DOC time to put together an investigation plan and conduct testing in the area to further understand the potential spread of the disease and the risk it presents to kauri within the wider Kaimai landscape.

This will inform whether greater mitigation protection measures are needed. At this stage there are no other known positive sites within the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park.

The samples were collected as part of a targeted 4-year soil sampling programme led by DOC. Targeted soil sampling has been focused on testing the kauri track mitigations and hygiene measures in place to prevent the spread of PA.

Once claimed to be the ‘most diverse forest ever encountered’ by forest research surveyors, the Kaimai marks the northern limit of plants such as kāmahi, alpine flora, red beech and silver beech, and the southern limit of kauri. This combination of plants makes the forest unique and highly valued for its ecosystem diversity.

The tracks and areas closed from 21 July are:

- Waitengaue Track
- Waitengaue to Upper Waitawheta Track
- Upper Waitawheta Track
- Lindemann to Cashmore's Clearing Track
- Lindemann Loop Track
- Wharawhara Tramway Track
- North-South Track to Waiorongomai
- Te Rereatukahia Hut Track
- Wharawhara Link Track
- North-South Track (Rereatukahia to Tuahu)
- Tuahu Track (east)
- Tuahu Kauri Loop Track
- North-South Track (Tuahu to Thompsons Track)
- Sentinel Rock Lookout Track
- Eliza Mine Loop Track to Thompsons

Background information about kauri disease

- *Phytophthora agathidicida* is a fungus-like pathogen which damages the tree's root system, reducing the tree's ability to take water and nutrients from the soil. This is sometimes referred to as kauri disease or kauri dieback.
- It is having a devastating effect on New Zealand's kauri forests.
- Kauri forests once covered 1.2 million ha from the far north of Northland to Te Kauri, near Kawhia and were common when the first people arrived around 1,000 years ago.
- Significant kauri, like Tāne Mahuta and Te Matua Ngahere, are more than just trees. They connect us with the past, and with those who have gazed up at them over hundreds of years.
- Kauri provide shelter and nourishment for other species, and are important to the indigenous forests of the upper North Island. A number of plants are found only, or mostly, in association with kauri. When kauri disappear, the kauri forest goes too.
- Kauri are a taonga species for Māori and have significant value for our ecosystem, historic heritage, cultural values, tourism industry, and national identity.
- There is no known cure, but we can help reduce its spread by avoiding any movement of soil around the roots of trees. That means making sure we stick to the tracks and have spotlessly clean footwear and any gear that might touch the ground.

[More information about kauri disease](#)

Kua uru mai te tukumate 'Kauri dieback' ki Te Pae o Kaimai.

Kua kitea te tukumate kauri e kīa nei ko te '*Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA)' i tētahi ara hikoi tata ki te tomokanga o Wharawhara ki te ngahere o Kaimai Mamaku, tata anō hoki ki Tauranga.

Nā tēnā, kua rāhui, kua aukati ētahi o ngā ara hikoi me ētahi wāhi o te ngahere, inaian tonu nei.

He mea ohorere he mea hirahira hoki ngā kitenga o ēnei whakamātau, nō te mea, kaore anō i pāngia te whenua o Te Pae o Kaimai e te tukumate nei.

“Kei te mahi tahi mātou ko te iwi ki te whakamana i te rāhui kia ōkawa te aukati i ngā ara hikoi me ētahi wāhi o te ngahere. Mā te rāhui ka whai wā ki te whakamātauhia tonutia te whenua kia mōhio pū tātou me pehea te anga whakamua.”

“Mā te rāhui ka ngana mātou ki te whakamutu i te horapa haere o te tukumate.”

“He taonga te Kauri, he rākau rangatira. Mā tātou katoa tēnei taonga e tiaki. Mā te mahi tahi ki te taha o te iwi me te hāpori whānui ka whakamutu te horapa o tēnei ngāngara – me matua whai tātou katoa i te tikanga o te rāhui” te kī a Jade Kinghazel, ko te Operations Director o te Tairāwhiti.

Whai muri i ngā wiki e 10, hei te 29 o Hepetema, ka arotaketa te rāhui me tōna tikanga.

Mā te rāhui ka whaiwā a Te Papa Atawhai ki te whakarite i te mahere rangahau, ki te mahi whakamātau anō hoki i te rohe, kia mārama ai tōna horahanga o te mate me tōna whakamōrea ki ngā kauri puta noa i rohe whānui o Te Pae o Kaimai.

Nā tēnā, ka mōhio rānei mēnā kia whakakahangia ngā ritenga haumaruru. I tēnei wā, kāore he pāngia anō i tētahi atu wāhi o te 'Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park.'

Nā tētahi kaupapa whakatipako one ā Te Papa Atawhai, e whā-tau nei te roa, ēnei tipako i kōhi. I aro ēnei mahi whakatipako one ki te whakamatautau i ngā ritenga haumaruru o ngā huarahi kauri, hei ārai i te horapa o te mate nei.

I ai ki ngā kōrero o ngā kairangahau ngahere, e pūpuri ana te ngahere nei i ngā taonga koiora maha, ā, kei reira ora ai ngā tipu o tonga, arā ko te kamahi, ngāi tipu tairanga, hutu, tawai, me ngā kauri o raki. He motuhake katoa te Wao nei nā ōna matahuhua.

Ko ngā ara hikoi me ngā wāhi kua aukati nō te rā 21 o Hūrae ko:

- Waitengaue Track
- Waitengaue to Upper Waitawheta Track
- Upper Waitawheta Track
- Lindemann to Cashmore's Clearing Track
- Lindemann Loop Track
- Wharawhara Tramway Track
- North-South Track to Waiorongomai
- Te Rereatukahia Hut Track
- Wharawhara Link Track
- North-South Track (Rereatukahia to Tuahu)
- Tuahu Track (east)

- Tuahu Kauri Loop Track
- North-South Track (Tuahu to Thompsons Track)
- Sentinel Rock Lookout Track
- Eliza Mine Loop Track to Thompsons

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