



Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor  
Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia

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**Title:**

INFORMATION SHEET: Hot topic – Kauri Dieback

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| <b>Notes:</b><br>‘Hot topic’ documents provide an overview of the topic, with links to reputable sources for further information. They are periodically updated. The most recent update is archived here.  |                 |                         |              |                        |



## Kauri dieback

Last edited: 24 February 2022

Kauri dieback is a disease that is threatening our kauri trees. It is caused by a fungus-like pathogen called *Phytophthora agathidicida*, first detected on the mainland in 2006. *P. agathidicida* infects the roots of kauri trees, causing root rot and damage to tissues that transport water and nutrients, leaving the tree to starve to death. It is found in soil and can be spread by footwear, vehicles, and animals such as feral pigs.

Members of the public can reduce the spread of the disease by using kauri dieback wash stations in parks when available, cleaning gear before and after forest visits, staying on marked tracks, and respecting track closures. You can also help combat kauri dieback by engaging in citizen science. [Kauri Rescue](#)<sup>1</sup> is a project bringing together scientists, social scientists, iwi, and community groups to implement citizen science tools for community control of kauri dieback. The project is funded by the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge and Auckland Council.

### Keeping kauri standing

[Keep Kauri Standing](#)<sup>2</sup> is a one-stop shop for information about kauri dieback, containing the latest research, information, and background on mātauranga Māori. The website is an initiative of the Kauri Dieback Programme, a partnership between Biosecurity New Zealand, the Department of Conservation, Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, Northland Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Roroa, and Tangata Whenua Roopu.

### Read more

- [Department of Conservation](#)<sup>3</sup>
- [Ministry for Primary Industries](#)<sup>4</sup>
- [Waikato Regional Council](#)<sup>5</sup>
- [Northland Regional Council](#)<sup>6</sup>
- [Auckland Council](#)<sup>7</sup>
- [Science Learning Hub](#)<sup>8</sup>

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Kauri Rescue website, accessed on 24 February 2022 <https://www.kaurirescue.org.nz/>

<sup>2</sup> Keep Kauri Standing website, accessed on 24 February 2022 <https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/>

<sup>3</sup> Department of Conservation webpage – Kauri dieback, accessed on 24 February 2022 <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/diseases/kauri-dieback/>

<sup>4</sup> Ministry for Primary Industries webpage – Kauri dieback disease control, accessed 24 February 2022 <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/long-term-biosecurity-management-programmes/kauri-dieback-disease-control/>

<sup>5</sup> Waikato Regional Council webpage – Protecting Kauri, accessed on 24 February 2022 <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/plant-and-animal-pests/kauri-dieback/>

<sup>6</sup> Northland Regional Council webpage – Kauri dieback, accessed on 24 February 2022 <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/kauridieback>

<sup>7</sup> Auckland Council webpage – Protect our kauri tress, accessed on 24 February 2022

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/plants-animals/protect-trees-disease/protect-our-kauri-trees/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> Science Learning Hub webpage – Kauri dieback, accessed on 24 February 2022

<https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2733-kauri-dieback>