

# PROCEDURES FOR TREE REMOVAL AND PRUNING

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF THE SPREAD OF *PHYTOPHTHORA TAXON AGATHIS* (PTA) WHICH IS KNOWN TO KILL KAURI. THESE PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY INDIVIDUALS AND CONTRACTORS (INCLUDING ARBORISTS) WHO ARE INTENDING ON PRUNING OR FELLING KAURI. THEY ARE IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL HYGIENE PROCEDURES FOR KAURI DIEBACK.

- 1.** If you are intending on pruning or felling kauri you must first seek advice and provide information on the location of the intended work by contacting 0800 NZ KAURI (695 2874).
- 2.** If you think you've found an infected tree, contain it by not removing any soil or vegetative material and contact 0800 NZ KAURI immediately. Soil contained in the root systems of kauri is a vector that spreads the disease.
- 3.** Some kauri may need to be pruned (e.g. unstable branches overhanging walking tracks) regardless of whether or not they are diseased. Pruned material should be left in-situ if possible, or alternatively removed to landfill. Contact the planning department of your city or district council for more details on planning rules relating to pruning kauri.
- 4.** Felling of kauri should only occur during dry periods/conditions within the months of February and March except where trees pose a health and safety hazard and require immediate removal. Contact the planning department of your city or district council for more details on rules relating to felling kauri.
- 5.** Tree stumps should be left in the ground and the cut treated, rather than removing the stump and roots. Stumps should be treated (for example Vigilant gel) so as to ensure death of the root system which may be infected.
- 6.** Where possible, logs should be left whole and on site. If this impacts on either the use of the site; the safety of people; or prevents access to tracks or private right of ways; logs should be cut into sections and left on site.

Stump and root removal will disturb more soil that can increase the spread of kauri dieback.

If it is essential that logs are removed, they must go to a landfill as whole as possible. Kauri material should be treated as if infected by PTA and removal activity undertaken:

- › in such a way as to minimise contact with soil and other vegetation to avoid damage and the risk of spread
- › on well drained topography and engineered to reduce interference with natural drainage patterns;
- › to minimise earthworks (cutting, filling, side-casting);
- › to limit the need for machines to move off track for timber extraction or vegetative waste.
- › kauri should not be removed off site for firewood or other uses (e.g. woodwork or building)
- › all material (either whole or cut into manageable sections) must be disposed of at a landfill or burnt as soon as possible (subject to checking Rural Fire Authority and Regional Council Air Quality requirements).

**7.** All footwear, tools and equipment/machinery must be totally soil-free when entering and leaving any forest area containing kauri. Cleaning and treatment with disinfectant (e.g. trigene) must occur at the beginning and end of each day. Remember, disinfectants will not kill PTA that is embedded in soil.

**8.** Wheeled or tracked machinery, vehicles and ATVs are considered high risk conveyors and must be given special attention to ensure that they are free of any soil. Operators are expected to carry out their own inspections and cleaning but this may be checked by local DOC or council staff at important or iconic sites containing kauri. Where possible, machinery/vehicles should remain on site for the duration of the job or project to minimise the risk of introducing PTA each time machinery is brought to the site.



# PROCEDURES FOR TREE REMOVAL AND PRUNING

**9.** Any tools or machinery that have been in contact with kauri or soil in kauri areas, must be treated as contaminated.

**10.** When entering or exiting a stream system or moving onto/off a site containing kauri, portable disinfectant kits must be used to ensure that PTA is not transferred. Disinfectant kits are to be used when leaving an area showing signs of dieback.

**11.** Disinfectant kits will be available from DOC and Regional Council offices for those who regularly work in kauri forest areas managed by these agencies.

## OTHER ACTIONS:

- › Work in the vicinity of kauri (e.g. felling) should be avoided during wet conditions
- › Keep to formed tracks as much as possible
- › Be particularly vigilant working around kauri stands, trees, streams and sites where the disease is known to be present
- › Confine ground based machines to well drained country and configure machines to low ground pressure operations
- › All procedures should be used in conjunction with the Hygiene Procedures SOP for those working in kauri areas found at [WWW.KAURIDIEBACK.CO.NZ](http://WWW.KAURIDIEBACK.CO.NZ)

AS INFORMATION ON THE DISEASE AND ITS DISTRIBUTION BECOMES AVAILABLE PROCEDURES MAY CHANGE. DISEASED AREAS MAY BE CLOSED IN THE FUTURE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PTA CONTACT 0800 NZ KAURI (695 2874) OR VISIT [WWW.KAURIDIEBACK.CO.NZ](http://WWW.KAURIDIEBACK.CO.NZ)

IF YOU REQUIRE AN ARBORIST TO CARRY OUT TREE FELLING OR PRUNING WORK PLEASE REFER TO THE NEW ZEALAND ARBORICULTURE ASSOCIATION  
[HTTP://NZARBOR.ORG.NZ/?P=98](http://NZARBOR.ORG.NZ/?P=98)

