



Public asked to help with temporary track closures in Waitakere Ranges

26 August 2010

Visitors to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park are being asked to plan their journey around temporary track closures in place to help contain kauri dieback disease, and help the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) in their fight against the kauri killer.

Three tracks are temporarily closed until 30 November:

- Lower Kauri Track, Cascade Kauri
- Maungaroa Ridge Track, Piha (from Maungaroa Lookout Track to McKenzie Track)
- Home Track, Piha (from Glen Esk Road to Winstone Track).

Signs are in place at track entrances and on noticeboards in the park.

“We are asking the public and local communities to work with us by avoiding these tracks and using nearby alternative routes and the cleaning stations in place whenever they visit the park,” says Stephen Bell, Principal Ranger for the Western Sector.

“Local groups and park visitors have been very supportive of our efforts so far, and are vital to the success of our disease management programme.”

The tracks being closed all have sick and dying trees, and the temporary closures aim to prevent the spread of the soil-borne disease from these areas. They are also tracks that are not as well used as others, and all have alternative routes nearby.

“The ARC is doing this because of the seriousness of this disease and its impact on kauri trees,” says Mr Bell.

“We have decided on the spring season for the track closure on scientific advice. Spore production will, in theory, be higher as soil and water temperatures increase, and soil is still quite wet and sticky

newsmediarelease

09 366 2000 www.arc.govt.nz



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHTANGA TAIAO

from winter downpours. This increases the risk of spores being tracked from place to place.”

The effectiveness of the track closures will be assessed over the next few months, with monitoring of track usage and assessment of soil disturbance and tree health.

For information on the closures, call the Auckland Regional Council on 09 366 2000 or visit www.arc.govt.nz.

For information on kauri dieback disease, visit www.kauridieback.co.nz.

ENDS

For further information please call:

Amanda Peart, Communications Advisor on 09 366 2000 x8623 or 021 026 33642.