

From: Mara Bebich **On Behalf Of** kauri

Sent: Thursday, 22 November 2018 10:05 AM

To: Environment and Community Committee; Waitakere Ranges Local Board

Subject: Update on Waitākere Ranges and Kauri Dieback

Dear Environment and Community Committee Members and Waitākere Ranges Local Board Members,

This is a short update on the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park track closures and kauri dieback for your information.

Since the closures in May 2018 Auckland Council has been working closely with the Department of Conservation and Te Kawerau ā Maki to confirm the approach needed to bring tracks in the Waitākere Ranges to a standard where they meet national best practice for kauri and support broader forest health.

In recent months our staff have been working on the Kitekite tracks in Piha which are hugely popular and need to be able to support high visitor numbers. This work has been mainly focussed on bringing them to all weather dry foot standard. There is still some further work to do including installation of some boardwalks and geotextile matting on the track sections that are near kauri.

Last week, following a blessing from Te Kawerau ā Maki, work began on the Kitekite track to bring it to the agreed standard, and provided we aren't held up by weather delays, should be completed and re-opened prior to Christmas.

Staff and contractors are currently working on several other tracks in the Waitākere Ranges and with additional tracks expected to be opened throughout summer.

We are also currently working on a track re-opening plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, with Te Kawerau ā Maki, which identifies the tracks that will be the focus for improvement work and re-opening over the next couple of years. We are planning to take this out to park users and local communities in December and will have a range of ways that feedback can be provided through until the end of February 2019.

We'll be growing our presence over the summer months with an increased team of 20 ambassadors working alongside our compliance officers and boosting our communications to ensure that Aucklanders know what to do when in kauri areas.

We know that there are a number of community queries coming in and we are working to respond to these as best we can as we work through the track re-opening plan with Te Kawerau ā Maki. If you have any community queries please do send them through to kauri@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

We will continue to keep you updated over the coming weeks.

Nga mihi,

Mara Bebich

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