

16 March 2022

T Austen

fyi-request-18597-36f7a41f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe T Austen

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 18 February 2022 in which you asked for:

How many kilometres of your tracks have been upgraded to meet the MPI Kauri Dieback Disease Management National Technical Specifications for Track Mitigation Measure Rev C 6/9/2019?

How much has it cost?

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Kauri Dieback Disease Management National Technical Specifications for Track Mitigation Measure Rev C 6/9/2019 have not yet been formally approved and so the Department has not assessed the state of its tracks against those specifications.

Since 2016, when the Department first started to upgrade its tracks for kauri protection, best practice has continued to develop. At each stage in our track upgrade programme, the Department has incorporated changes in our engineers' specifications in line with current best practice.

To date, the Department of Conservation has spent approximately \$8.7million on upgrades of 339 kilometres of kauri tracks.

To assess whether each piece of upgraded track complies with the draft National Technical Specifications would entail detailed examination of the Required Work Schedules for each of the tracks we have upgraded, plus an inspection of its current state, as our district staff regularly maintain and upgrade tracks to keep areas with kauri roots dry and free of mud.

In the absence of a set of national specifications for kauri tracks, the Department of Conservation has developed its own track manual, which aligns with the draft National Technical Specifications. The Department is now in the process of ensuring that the



specifications defined in that manual are captured in the Department's regular track inspections and reporting processes.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. How many kilometres of your tracks have been upgraded to meet the MPI Kauri Dieback Disease Management National Technical Specifications for Track Mitigation Measure Rev C 6/9/2019?
2. How much has it cost?

I regret that I am not able to provide you with the information you seek and I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act because the information is not held.

I have borne in mind sections 18A and 18B of the Official Information Act but concluded that use of either provision would not assist in this case.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Reddiex".

Ben Reddiex
Director Operations Issues and Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai