

17 March 2022

T Austen
fyi-request-18583-ec37178d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe T Austen

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 17 February 2022 in which you asked:

Do the Goldies Bush tracks excluding the Mokoroa Stream Track i.e. the track from Horseman Rd to Constable Rd and the Falls track to Mokoroa Falls meet the MPI Kauri Dieback Disease Management National Technical Specifications for Track Mitigation Measure Rev C 6/9/2019? If not what needs to be done and what is the estimated cost?

By way of context for my reply, in recent years the Department has upgraded the tracks in Goldie Bush in a staged programme of works that addressed issues that were identified at the time. Each set of upgrades was planned and implemented in accordance with engineers' specifications that reflected best practice at the time they were undertaken. Design and maintenance standards for tracks, especially in kauri forests, have changed over time as best practice and technical standards have evolved. This is particularly so in response to improved knowledge about kauri dieback, and as better methods to prevent its spread have been identified.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Do the Goldies Bush tracks excluding the Mokoroa Stream Track i.e. the track from Horseman Rd to Constable Rd and the Falls track to Mokoroa Falls meet the MPI Kauri Dieback Disease Management National Technical Specifications for Track Mitigation Measure Rev C 6/9/2019? .*

I am unable to answer your question as the tracks in Goldie Bush have not yet been assessed against the specifications in the Kauri Dieback Management National Technical Specifications for Track Mitigation (Measure Rev C 9/9/2019), prepared by the Ministry for Primary Industries. That is because the National Technical Specifications for Track Mitigation (Measure Rev C 9/9/2019) have not yet been formally approved for adoption.



2. *If not what needs to be done and what is the estimated cost?*

The Department will need to undertake a full assessment of the Goldie Bush tracks to determine what additional work is required to upgrade them so that they meet current best practice and standards. An assessment is likely to be undertaken within the next few months to form the basis for a bid for additional funding to undertake the upgrades. The assessment will give the Department an indication of the likely costs of works to bring the tracks to standard, and the time that will be required for undertaking the works.

We will also need to engage with iwi with interests in Goldie Bush, particularly Te Kawerau a Maki, about any track upgrades.

Any work on Goldie Bush tracks will only be undertaken once we have completed upgrade works on the Okura Bush track, which are currently in the planning stages. Work on the Goldie Bush tracks could possibly be several years away, although the Department hopes that it will be able to commence works sooner.

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

If you wish to discuss this with the Department, please contact Rebecca Rush, Operations Manager, Tāmaki Makaurau on 027 540 3732 or by email rrush@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Baucke'.

Andrew Baucke
Director Operations Auckland
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai