



PRESS RELEASE - for immediate release, 1 May 2018

## **WAITĀKERE RANGES CLOSED TO PROTECT KAURI**

The Tree Council, Waitakere Ranges Protection Society, Forest & Bird and the Friends of Regional Parks are delighted that Auckland Council has worked constructively and in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki to agree the final shape of the closure of the Waitākere Ranges.

This closure, which takes effect from 1 May 2018, reflects respect for the rāhui placed by Te Kawerau on 2 December and is intended to protect kauri for future generations. All forested areas of the Regional Park will be closed apart from a limited number of 31 kauri safe tracks (attached). These tracks have been subjected to a joint audit by Te Kawerau, Auckland Council Biosecurity and Parks staff and are jointly agreed to currently meet the standard of the Controlled Area Notice of “no soil on footwear” so that they can remain open.

Te Kawerau and Auckland Council remain in discussions regarding 2 further tracks and anticipate further “rolling openings” in future as tracks are upgraded to meet the standard.

“We would like to thank Auckland Council for working in genuine partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki regarding the details of the closure” said The Tree Council’s Secretary Mels Barton. “We hope this is the start of a constructive and productive relationship based on mutual trust and respect and care for the protection of our forests.”

“People using the open tracks must remember that they will be required to comply with all hygiene precautions by using cleaning stations effectively to ensure they have no soil on their footwear in order to comply with the Controlled Area Notice provisions” said Waitakere Ranges Protection Society President John Edgar. “Monitoring and enforcement by Auckland Council will be in place to ensure this happens from 1 May.”

“It is really important that everyone sticks to the track surface and never go off track” says Forest & Bird’s Regional Manager for Auckland Nick Beveridge. “In fact we encourage everyone to stay away from all kauri forests throughout New Zealand until similar upgrades have been made in order to protect kauri and the rest of the forest ecosystem for future generations.”

“Anyone wanting to work in the forest can apply for a warrant to do so from Te Kawerau ā Maki” says Forest & Bird Waitakere Chair Annalily van den Broeke. “This system is already working well to ensure warranted workers are complying with all the precautions needed to protect kauri and continue with our important work to control pests.”

Anyone wishing to help keep tracks open by joining the Waitākere Rāhui Audit team can do so by emailing [info@waitakererahui.org.nz](mailto:info@waitakererahui.org.nz) or via the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/waitakererahui/>

### Comment:

Dr Mels Barton, Secretary The Tree Council and Secretary Friends of Regional Parks 021 213 7779

John Edgar, President Waitakere Ranges Protection Society 027 229 0169

Nick Beveridge, Regional Manager Auckland Northland Forest and Bird 021 216 2920

Annalilly van den Broeke, Chair Forest & Bird Waitakere 021 220 7136

### Links:

<http://waitakererahui.org.nz/>

<http://www.thetrecouncil.org.nz>

<http://www.waitakereranges.org.nz>

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz>

<http://www.forparks.org.nz>

### List of tracks agreed by Te Kawerau ā Maki as of 1 May 2018:

<b>Forest Tracks</b>
Lookout Track (Arataki Visitor Centre)
Marawhara Walk (Whites Track is closed) (Piha)
<b>Service Roads</b>
Huia Dam Road (to dam only) (Watercare)
Pipeline Road & part of Pipeline Track (Watercare)
Upper Nihotupu Dam Road (Watercare) and Upper Nihotupu Walk
Waitakere Dam Walk
Exhibition Drive Walk (Watercare)
<b>Non-Forested Tracks</b>
Anawhata Beach Track
Cave Rock Track
Laird Thompson Track
Lion Rock Track
Long Road Track (partial - from road end to where paddock meets forest)
McLachlan Monument Track
Rose Track
Signal House Track
Spraggs Monument Track
Tasman Lookout Track
Te Henga Walkway (DOC)
Kakamatua Beach Walk
Lake Wainamu Track (eastern side)
Mercer Bay Loop Track
<b>Additional Non-Forested Tracks</b>
Huia lookout track
Tracks at Hinge Bay beach (Huia)

Track to Whatipu beach
Whatipu caves track
Track to bench seat at Pukehuhu only (do not continue along Omanawanui track)(Whatipu)
Whatipu coastal walk
Pohutakawa glade walk (Karekare)
Track down stream to beach (Karekare)
Tunnel point track (Karekare)
Track to beach from carpark (Te Henga)

ENDS