



Forests Act 1949: Quarterly Report of Swamp Kauri Activity

1 July 2015–30 September 2015

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has responsibility for implementing and enforcing the Forests Act 1949 (the Act). Under the Act, MPI regulates the milling and export of swamp kauri.

Swamp kauri, which is also known as ancient kauri, is kauri timber that has been buried and preserved in what used to be swamps for anywhere between 800 and 60,000 years. Responsibility for managing its extraction rests with councils under the Resource Management Act.

This report summarises MPI's regulatory activities in the third quarter of 2015 (1 July 2015–30 September 2015).

Milling Controls

Indigenous timber, including swamp kauri, can only be milled by registered sawmills. All swamp kauri must have an approved 'Milling Statement' from MPI before it can be milled at a registered sawmill. Milling statements verify the timber as having originated from an approved source under the Forests Act.

Milling statements can only be issued in specific circumstances. The applicant must demonstrate that the swamp kauri will either:

- be salvaged from land that is not indigenous forest land; or
- be salvaged from indigenous forest land and that the natural values of that land will be maintained when the swamp kauri is extracted.

Table 1 provides details of milling statements approved in this quarter. Three milling statements were approved and all were for timber extracted from non-indigenous forest land.

Milling statement totals will not necessarily reflect the total volume of swamp kauri extracted in the quarter. If someone extracts swamp kauri with no intention to mill the timber, then no milling statement will be applied for.

Table 1: Milling Statements issued between 1 July 2015–30 September 2015

Milling Statement #	Name	Timber Source	Region	Approved Volume	Volume Milled¹
7/00/02337	Stanacich	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	449.4	422.2
7/00/02342	M&S Swamp Kauri	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	405.5	34.0
7/00/02366	M&S Swamp Kauri	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	801.7	6.7
				1656.6 m³	462.9 m³

Note: ¹ Sawmill Returns are reported quarterly and must be lodged within 28 days of the close of the quarter. Sawmill returns for this quarter are due no later than 28 July, so not all data will have been reported at the time of publishing this report.

Export Controls

Some swamp kauri is exported, but it can only be exported as a finished product or as whole or sawn swamp kauri stump or roots. Section 67C of the Forests Act 1949 sets out the relevant export controls.

Export approval is required before exporting whole or sawn swamp kauri stump or roots. Such exports are not cleared by the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) for export until the exporter has presented to Customs the appropriately completed documentation issued by MPI. The documentation is checked by a Customs officer and a copy retained by Customs. Providing the appropriate documents are presented to Customs, the export entry is cleared, which will allow the consignment to be loaded onto the vessel.

Exporters of finished or manufactured products do not require MPI approval to export. However, swamp kauri operators voluntarily use the notification and inspection process to confirm that exports of finished or manufactured products comply with the Forests Act.

Not all swamp kauri timber extracted will be exported. On average, a larger proportion will be sold into the domestic market or held as inventory.

Table 2: Notified swamp kauri export consignments for 1 July 2015–30 September 2015

Destination	No. of Exports Approved	No. Inspected	Volume Exported
Brazil	1	1	0.55 m ³
Taiwan	1	1	54.20 m ³
China	27	27	1055.29 m ³
Italy	3	3	11.61 m ³
Totals	32	32	1121.65 m³