



# Forests Act 1949: Quarterly Report of Swamp Kauri Activity

1 October 2015 – 31 December 2015

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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 last quarter of the 2015 (1 October 2015 – 31 December 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.

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:** New Milling Statements issued 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

<b>Milling Statement #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Timber Source</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Approved Volume</b>	<b>Volume Milled</b>
7-00-02382	Terry Rolfe	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	454.0	346.3
7-00-02405	Nelson's Kaihu Kauri	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	137.9	137.9
7-00-02408	Doug Dackers	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	80.0	0
				<b>671.9 m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>484.2 m<sup>3</sup></b>

Milling statements are issued for a time-bound period. If not all timber approved for milling is milled in that period, operators can apply to have a milling statement renewed. Table 1 provides details of new milling statements approved in this quarter. Two new milling statements were approved; both were for timber extracted from non-indigenous forest land.

Table 2 provides details of milling statements renewed in this quarter. Two milling statements were renewed; both were for timber extracted from non-indigenous forest land.

The volumes approved for milling do not reflect additional timber extracted – the volumes reflect residual volume assessed as being available for milling from the earlier milling statements.

These assessments involve inspections of sawmills and the use of sawmill data.

**Table 2:** Milling Statements re-issued 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

<b>Milling Statement #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Timber Source</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Approved Volume</b>	<b>Volume Milled</b>
7-01-02416	NZ Forests Ltd <sup>1</sup>	Non-indigenous forest land	Auckland	1354.5	0
7-01-02417	NZ Forests Ltd <sup>2</sup>	Non-indigenous forest land	Auckland	115.9	0
				<b>1470.4 m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> This is a renewal of milling statement 7-00-01706. It is the same approved volume as provided for in the first milling statement as no timber from this milling statement has been milled.

<sup>2</sup> This is a renewal of milling statement 7-01-01774 and reflects the volume of that initial milling statement, less the volume milled since it was originally issued.

## 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 will be 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 3:** Notified swamp kauri export consignments for 1 October 2015 – 31 December 2015

<b>Destination</b>	<b>No. of Exports Approved</b>	<b>No. Inspected</b>	<b>Volume Exported</b>
China	7	7	491.56 m <sup>3</sup>
Italy	4	4	37.58 m <sup>3</sup>
Taiwan	1	1	2.40 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>531.54 m<sup>3</sup></b>