

A large, dark brown, weathered log of a swamp kauri tree lies on the ground. The log is covered in moss and lichen. In the background, an orange excavator is working on a pile of dark, peaty soil. The scene is set in a grassy field with trees in the distance.

Good Practice Guide for Swamp Kauri Operators

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The purpose of this Guide is to help swamp kauri extractors, sawmillers, and exporters understand their legal requirements and promote the enhancement of values associated with swamp kauri.

The Guide is organised into three sections:

- **Values**
- **Procedures**
- **Compliance**

Legal requirements are highlighted in orange.

Context of swamp kauri

The extraction of swamp kauri is regulated under the Resource Management Act 1991. Regional and district councils are responsible for administering many of the key functions under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The milling and export of swamp kauri is regulated under the Forests Act 1949, and it is considered to be "salvaged" or naturally dead timber under the Act. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for administering the Forests Act.

Values and risks

Cultural values

- Kauri is a taonga (treasure) to Māori.
- There is a risk that swamp kauri can be extracted from areas significant to Māori.

Environmental values

- Swamp kauri can be found in or near sensitive environments such as wetlands.
- Extraction at or near these areas risks damage to their environmental and ecological values.

Scientific values

- Swamp kauri holds important scientific data.
- If researchers are unable to extract this data before the timber is milled or exported, it can be lost to science.

Economic values

- Extraction often involves removing the swamp kauri timber from the surface of pastoral land, thereby improving productivity.
- Extraction contributes employment to local communities, however, costs incurred during extraction are not always recovered as the quality of the timber is only recognisable once milled.
- It's important to carefully manage swamp kauri once it has been extracted – it can break down if left exposed.
- Recognising the cultural, environmental and scientific values of swamp kauri is an important part of maintaining its economic value.

Procedures Extraction

1. Planning

Plan where you are going to extract swamp kauri from and mark it on a map.

Extracting from sites like paddocks reduces the risk of damaging sensitive environments.



2. Notification

If planning to extract swamp kauri (or if you come across swamp kauri accidentally), notify:

- the Regional and District Council;
- the local Heritage New Zealand office; and
- MPI.

Contact details are on page 13.



Councils and Heritage New Zealand can advise you of your legal obligations. Notifying MPI means the information needed to make milling and export decisions can be gathered. It is ultimately the extractors responsibility to obtain any required consents or authorities.

3. Inspections

MPI and the Regional Council are likely to inspect the site.

If the site is determined to be indigenous forest land, it may affect your ability to mill or export any timber you extract.



4. Working with scientists

Swamp kauri timber holds important scientific data. Where possible:

- notify swamp kauri researchers of your planned extraction (contact details are on page 13); and
- allow swamp kauri researchers to access the site and sample the extracted timber.



When extraction starts, you must comply with the conditions of any resource consents, archaeological authorities, and environmental requirements in the regional and district plans.

5. Discovering archaeological material

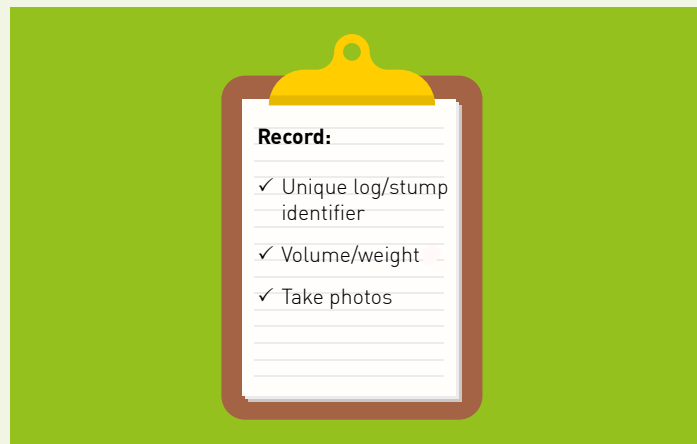
If you discover archaeological material (including human remains) during extraction:

- Stop all work immediately, secure the site, and contact the local Heritage New Zealand office (contact details are on page 13).
- Contact a representative of the local iwi/hapu.



6. Keeping timber records

Keep a volume record of all timber extracted. You should use the swamp kauri logbook, which you can get by emailing indigenous.forestry@mpi.govt.nz.



MPI may have specified steps to maintain the natural values of areas of indigenous forest land. MPI will inspect extraction sites regularly, and if these steps aren't followed it may affect your ability to mill or export any timber you extract.

7. Applying for a milling statement

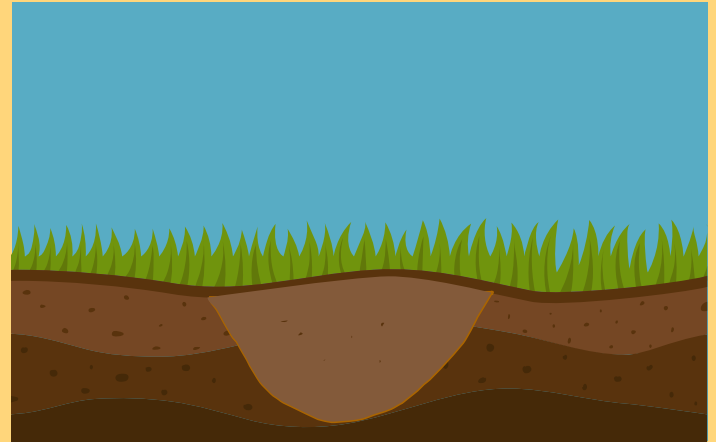
A milling statement must be obtained from MPI for any swamp kauri intended to be milled, before it is milled. To apply for a milling statement, complete the “Swamp Kauri Milling Application Form” (see link on page 13).



8. After extraction

Return the extraction site to the condition specified in:

- the conditions of any resource consents; and/or
- any district and/or regional plan rules.



- ! • All extracted timber should be well marked. Mark the number used in your record sheet in spray-paint, or write it on a cattle tag and nail it to the log.
- You should store the extracted timber in a sheltered place to stop it breaking down.

Milling

1. Registering a sawmill

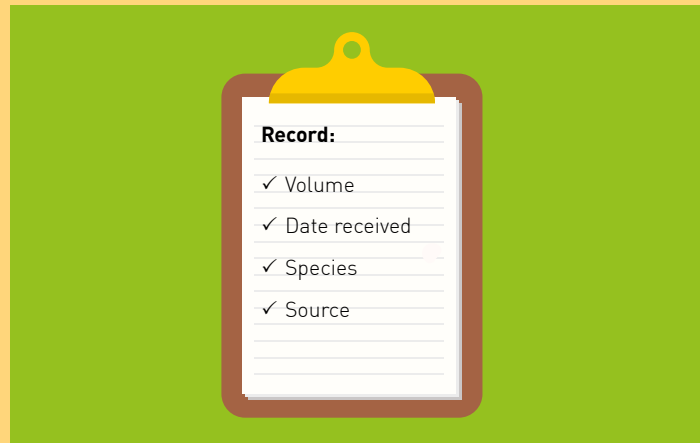
Swamp kauri may only be milled at a sawmill registered with MPI.

Complete the sawmill registration form (see link on page 13).



2. Recording swamp kauri timber

Registered sawmills must keep an accurate record of indigenous timber received for processing, and make 3-monthly returns of indigenous timber received.



- Sawmill registration costs \$115 a year. The registration year runs from 1 July to 30 June.
- If you receive timber before a milling statement is issued, record the date, volume and source. Enter the milling statement number when it is issued.

3. Sawmill inspections

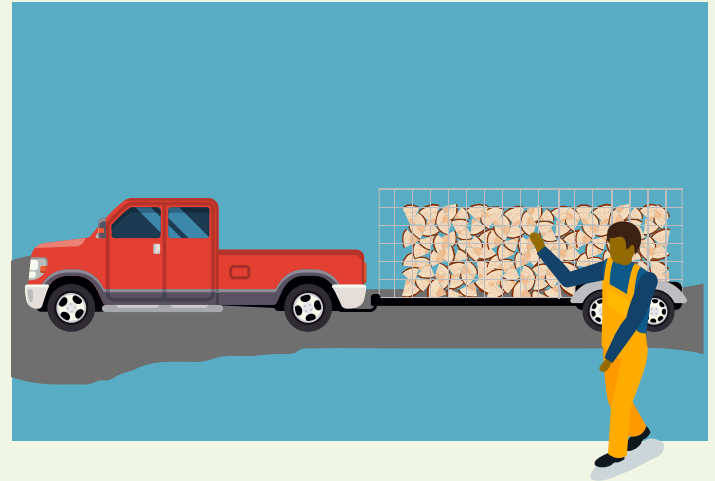
MPI regularly inspects registered sawmills. During MPI inspections:

- Provide access to the sawmill and any timber stockpiles.
- Ensure the sawmill record book is available and up to date.
- Provide copies of any milling approvals issued by MPI for timber on site or recently milled.

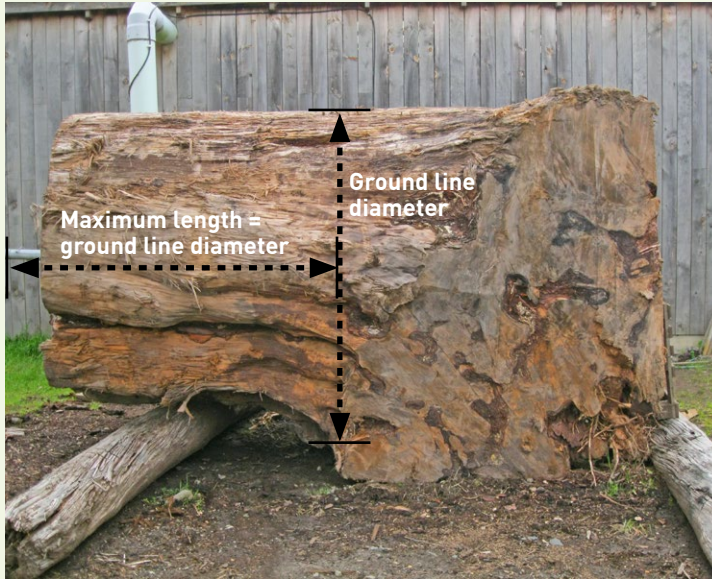


4. Timber offcuts

Swamp kauri is valued by artisans and carvers, who can work with small pieces of wood. If you have lots of timber offcuts, consider making them available to the local iwi/hapu, and members of the wider community.



Exporting



How a stump is measured under the Forests Act.

Swamp kauri timber can only be exported if it is:

- salvaged stump or root and MPI has stated in writing that the timber has been taken from an area that is not indigenous forest land; or
- a finished or manufactured indigenous timber product.

A finished and manufactured product is any indigenous timber product:

- that has been manufactured into its final form;
- is ready to be installed or used for its intended purpose;
- is a complete item or part of an item – whether assembled or in kit set form;
- does not require further machining or other modification.



Exporters are responsible for meeting all export requirements and obtaining necessary certifications. More information can be found at www.mpi.govt.nz or by calling 0800 00 83 33.

1. Notification

An exporter who wishes to export swamp kauri stumps or roots must submit a completed “Notice of Intention to Export” form (see link on page 13).



2. Inspection

The consignment must be presented to a Forestry Officer for inspection and approval prior to export. If it is approved for export, MPI will provide a clearance number – give this to your customs agent.



- If the stumps or roots have been milled, provide photos from before they were milled. This will help MPI determine whether the proposed export is stump timber.
- During MPI inspections, provide Forestry Officers access to all swamp kauri intended for export.
- It is appreciated if MPI is notified of finished product exports.

Compliance

Resource Management Act 1991

Operators must comply with any statutory requirements and relevant rule or process under a district or regional policy or planning instrument under the Resource Management Act 1991. Failure to follow these may result in prosecution or other enforcement action.

Forests Act 1949

Offences under the Forests Act include milling of indigenous timber at an unregistered sawmill, milling indigenous timber without the appropriate approval, and falsifying milling records. MPI takes its responsibilities under the Forests Act seriously and will investigate all suspected offences. Persons or companies who breach the requirements of the Forests Act are liable upon conviction to fines of up to \$200,000.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

Persons or companies who commit offences under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 may face prosecution. Full details of offences and penalties can be found in Part 5 of the Act. An electronic copy of the Act can be found [here](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0026/latest/DLM4005414.html) (www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0026/latest/DLM4005414.html).

Contact details

Organisation	Phone	Email
MPI	0800 00 83 33	Indigenous.forestry@mpi.govt.nz
Northland Regional Council	09 408 6600	peterw@nrc.govt.nz (Far North) mailroom@nrc.govt.nz (Whangarei and Kaipara)
Far North District Council	0800 920 029	Ask.us@fndc.govt.nz
Kaipara District Council	0800 727 059	council@kaipara.govt.nz
Whangarei District Council	09 430 4200	mailroom@wd.govt.nz
Auckland Council	09 301 0101	
Waikato Regional Council	0800 800 402	
Heritage New Zealand	09 307 9920	infonorthern@heritage.org.nz
Swamp Kauri Research Consortium	09 375-2055	andrew.lorrey@niwa.co.nz
Department of Conservation	http://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/contact-us/office-by-name/	

Forms and resources

Sawmill registration form	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/55
Milling statement application form	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/10865
Notice of Intention to Export Swamp Kauri (Form ITE2)	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/10862
Guide to sampling swamp kauri logs	www.niwa.co.nz/climate/research-projects/climate-present-and-past/palaeoclimate/kauri-research
Applying for an archaeological authority	http://www.heritage.org.nz/protecting-heritage/archaeology/standard-archaeological-authority-process

MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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