



Annual report of swamp kauri activity

1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019

This report summarises Te Uru Rākau's regulatory activities in regard to the milling and export of swamp kauri for the period 1 January – 31 December 2019. The data presented was previously reported every quarter, however due to reduced levels of swamp kauri milling and export, the report will now be produced annually.

Swamp kauri, 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.

Te Uru Rākau is responsible for regulating the milling and export of swamp kauri under the Forests Act 1949 ("the Act"). More information on the management of swamp kauri can be found at: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/forest-products/wood-and-wood-products/swamp-kauri>





Milling controls

All indigenous timber - including swamp kauri - can only be milled by sawmills registered with Te Uru Rākau. Te Uru Rākau regularly inspects registered sawmills which are required to report their milling activity every quarter. All swamp kauri must also have an approved milling statement from Te Uru Rākau before it can be milled at a registered sawmill (see Table 1).

Table 1: Milling statements issued 1 January – 31 December 2019

| Milling statement # | Timber source | Region | Volume (m³) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 7-02-03053 | Non-indigenous forest land | Auckland | 2.8 |
| 7-01-02776A ¹ | Non-indigenous forest land | Auckland | 20 |
| 7-01-03063 | Non-indigenous forest land | Auckland | 120 |
| 7-01-03072 | Non-indigenous forest land | Auckland | 6.2 |
| 7-00-02946 ² | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 25 |
| 7-00-03062 | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 30 |
| 7-00-03067 | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 10 |
| 7-00-03127 | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 1.5 |
| 7-00-03130 | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 29.5 |
| 7-00-03146 | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 16.3 |
| 7-00-03167 ³ | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 0.8 |
| 7-00-03169 | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 45.8 |
| 7-00-02999 ⁴ | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 15 |
| 7-00-03007 ⁵ | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 90 |
| 7-00-03156A ⁶ | Non-indigenous forest land | Northland | 3 |
| Total | | | 415.9 m³ |

¹. This is a renewal of milling statement 7-01-02776

². This is a renewal of milling statement 7-00-02595

³. This is a renewal of milling statement 7-00-02593

⁴. This is a renewal of milling statement 7-00-02816

⁵. This is a renewal of milling statement 7-00-02709

⁶. This is a renewal of milling statement 7-00-03156



Site inspections

Responsibility for managing the extraction of swamp kauri rests with Regional and District Councils, under the Resource Management Act. Where possible Te Uru Rākau will inspect all extraction sites as part of the swamp kauri milling statement approval process in order to confirm salvage activities are consistent with the milling statement approval.

Export controls

Swamp kauri can only be exported as either a finished product or, providing it is not sourced from indigenous forest land, as whole or sawn stumps or root material. Indigenous timber export controls are set out in Section 67C of the Act (see Table 2 and Figure 1 for volumes exported).

Table 2: Notified swamp kauri export consignments for 1 January – 31 December 2019

| Destination | Number of exports approved | Number of export inspections | Volume exported |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Australia | 4 | 4 | 13.9 m ³ |
| China | 5 | 5 | 24.9 m ³ |
| Hong Kong | 1 | - | 0.6 m ³ |
| Italy | 10 | 8 | 70.7 m ³ |
| Japan | 1 | 1 | 0.8 m ³ |
| Vietnam | 2 | 1 | 24.6 m ³ |
| Other | 1 | - | 2.8 m ³ |
| Total | 24 | 19 | 138.3 m³ |

Release of the Supreme Court of New Zealand's judgment

The Supreme Court's judgment, partially concerned the correct interpretation of a finished or manufactured indigenous timber product (under section 2(1) of the Forests Act 1949) relating to exports (under section 67C(1)(b)). The majority of the Court found that, to be lawfully exported, an item must be a product in itself and in its final or kitset form. It must be either ready to be used, or ready to be installed into a larger structure.



This finding may affect some swamp kauri exports and other exports of indigenous products, though it does not affect the requirements for exporting personal effects or stump timber. We are reviewing and updating our internal procedures and relevant information including industry guidelines, the good practice guide and information on our website. If you have any questions, contact info@mpi.govt.nz.

Historic Data

A number of graphs are included below to show historic trends in swamp kauri exports and volumes approved for milling (see Figure 1 and 2).

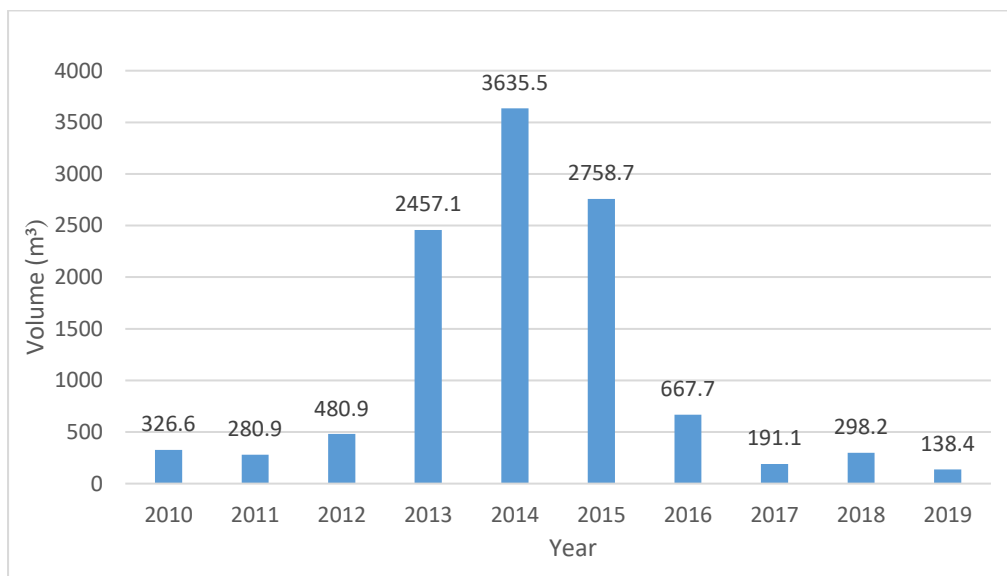


Figure 1: Swamp kauri export volumes for 1 January – 31 December, 2010 – 2019

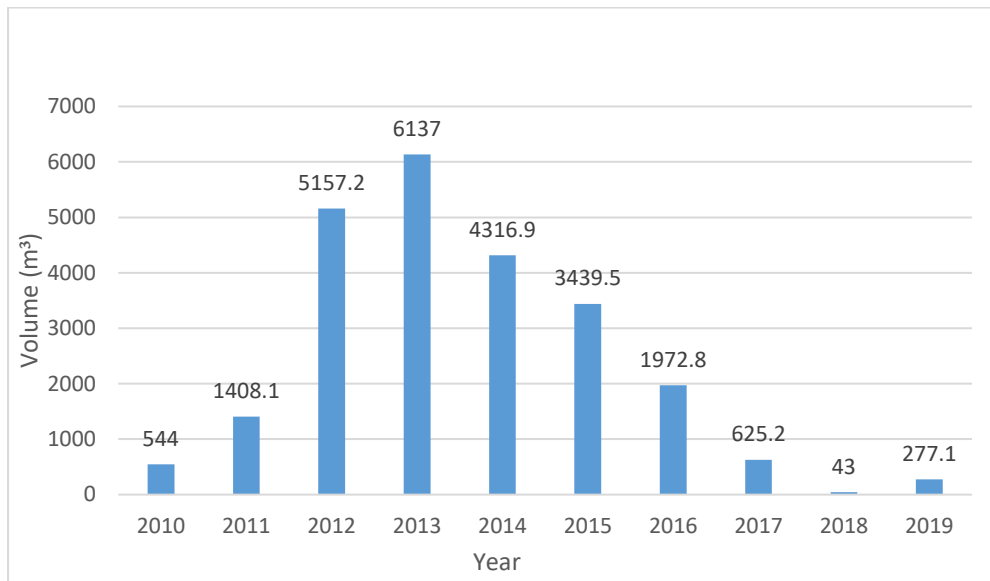


Figure 2: Annual volumes approved for the milling of swamp kauri, 2010 - 2019