

Oratia District Ratepayers' and Residents' Association Inc.
PO Box 20184
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Auckland

Friday July 20th, 2012

Submission on the proposed Lactic Turkey Hillary Trail Running Event scheduled for April 2013

The Oratia District Ratepayers' and Residents' Association Inc. opposes the plan by Lactic Turkey Events to hold a 75km running event along the Hillary Trail in the Waitakere Ranges in April 2013.

Our concern is the spread of PTA (Phytophthora taxon Agathis, or "Kauri Dieback.")

Kauri trees are taonga to New Zealand and to all New Zealanders, and are particularly significant to those of us who live in and around the areas in which they grow, such as the Waitakere Ranges.

The area along the route of the Hillary Trail contains a mixture of healthy kauri, suspect kauri, and confirmed PTA-afflicted kauri.¹ There is therefore a danger of spreading the spore, which is present in the area, to the still-healthy trees.

At present the research being conducted on PTA is still focused on assessing the risk posed by the organism, discovering how it is spread (human activity involving soil movement, including on footwear, is thought to be the greatest cause), and developing an effective treatment.² This indicates there is still much that is unknown about the disease.

The event organisers plan to use between ten and fifteen phytosanitary mats along the track (one mat every 5 - 7 kilometres) that will be manned by marshals who ensure all participants use them. The organisers also intend, via email and their website, to educate participants in best practice before the event, including rules about sticking to tracks, and the use of the phytosanitary mats.³

The use of phytosanitary mats is a gesture, but will not involve the thorough scrubbing and cleaning of footwear that is recommended as best practice.² Also, the use of mats will not prevent spores being picked up again a few metres past the mat and carried further along the track by the runner.

Because there is so much that is unknown about PTA, we believe any precautions that may be taken still leave an unacceptably high risk of the PTA

spores being spread to healthy trees, therefore we oppose the staging of this event in April 2013.

Yours faithfully

Oratia District Ratepayers' and Residents' Association Inc.

¹ Data provided by Waitakere Ranges Local Board member.

² From the March 2012 issue of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Open Space Magazine available at:
[http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/media/18486/os_magazine_no._82_march_2012_low_res_for_website\[1\].pdf](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/media/18486/os_magazine_no._82_march_2012_low_res_for_website[1].pdf)

³ From a presentation by the event organisers at a public meeting held at the Arataki Visitor Centre, July 2nd 2012.