

## **Myrtle rust and Kauri dieback Strategic Science Advisory Groups to merge**

The Myrtle Rust Strategic Science Advisory Group and the Kauri Dieback SSAG agreed to merge at a recent combined meeting (November 2019) to discuss the future of the two groups. The decision was supported by all SSAG members present, including government, industry and Māori.

Merging the two groups will enable efficient use of resources. The two SSAGs' science plans are both about plant pathology, and there are common research needs. Combining the SSAGs could increase the identification of science synergies.

Work is underway to determine timing, membership and objectives of the new combined SSAG, and to ensure it adheres to the principals of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – The *Treaty of Waitangi*.

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