

Department of Conservation's Plant Pass Action Plan

DOC became a signatory to the Plant Buyer's Accord in May 2022. We commit to the actions in this plan for the first year of the launch of Plant Pass.

Background:

DOC worked with Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ), New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI), horticulture and forestry sectors, and councils since 2018 in the development of Plant Pass – a voluntary certification scheme designed to reduce risks associated with plant propagation and the nursery trade. The scheme was launched in May 2022.

To strengthen the impact of Plant Pass, a Plant Buyers Accord was also developed.

By signing the Accord, we committed to:

- Using influence to incentivise plant producers to improve their biosecurity practices and become certified under the Plant Pass.
- Buying plants from plant producers who are certified under the Plant Pass, or actively working towards it.
- Within three months of ratifying the Accord, developing an organisation-specific Action Plan with goals and targets that describe how they will meet their commitments.

This Action Plan outlines key actions we will take in the first year of Plant Pass (including resources and timeframes), to influence nurseries to become certified under the Plant Pass scheme.

Scale of DOC's commitment:

Our DDG Operations signed a memo directing:

- We sign up to the Plant Buyers Accord, publicly supporting Plant Pass.
- When buying plants from commercial nurseries for conservation projects, we give preference to those commercial nurseries who ecosource and are Plant Pass accredited.
- We promote to our own staff the benefits of using Plant Pass certified nurseries and educate our nursery partners on benefits.
- We register Motukarara Nursery in Plant Pass toward the end of Year One, with a view to the AssureQuality audit informing us of gaps and upgrades required.
- We assess the success of Plant Pass after Year One and review our commitment.



Plant Pass benefit statement: Plant Pass accreditation offers DOC assurance that we are using best biosecurity practice for plant propagation, minimising pest pathways across New Zealand.

Action Plan July 2022 – June 2023

NOTE: In our first year we will focus on promotion and advocacy. We will highlight the benefits of Plant Pass to DOC staff and nurseries producing plants for restoration on Public Conservation Land (PCL).

We will be clear about our support role to the scheme, supporting Biosecurity NZ and NZPPI to lead and succeed.

We will review our Action Plan in June 2023, to inform our commitments to Plant Pass in Year 2.

Action category	Detail	Timing	Who is responsible
Partnership and participation	Member of Plant Buyers Accord signatories' meetings to review progress and impact	Ongoing	Operations: Issues Manager
	Identify and engage in opportunities for cross agency collaboration	Ongoing	All
	Represent DOC on Nursery Forum	Ongoing	1BT advisor
	New incursions – DOC input into scheme for new conservation threats	As required	Threats advisor
Promotion and advocacy	Promote the benefits of Plant Pass internally	Ongoing	All
	Intranet and 'In the Loop' story with benefits, key messages and links to collateral for staff to use	October 2022	Operations: Issues Manager
	Support role in broader comms from MPI and NZPPI	Ongoing	All
	Create intranet depository for key documents (links to restoration pages etc)	October 2022	Operations: Issues Manager
	When setting up new projects (e.g. J4N) or partnering with nurseries, we promote benefits of Plant Pass, directing to MPI or NZPPI as the lead agencies	Ongoing awareness, mentoring, assistance role	All

NPMP for kauri: rules on kauri propagation	Maintain a register of nurseries propagating kauri for restoration on PCL	October 2022	Plant Pathogens advisor
	Promote benefits of Plant Pass certification to kauri nurseries	Ongoing	Plant Pathogens advisor
Procurement	Graduate commitment to buying from Plant Pass accredited nurseries over time. Review take-up of scheme after year 1 with a view to a preferential system in year 2 if appropriate.	Review by June 2023	All
	If entering into a nursery contract for >\$100k (open competitive process needed), include ecosourcing, quality plants, biosecurity practices in tender considerations.	As required	Operations and Procurement
Our own DOC nurseries	Register Motukarara Nursery in Plant Pass by year end and look toward an audit. Request pre-assessment advice from NZPPI to help us through audit process.	By June 2023	Operations: National Programmes and Mahaanui District Operations Manager
	Check our own nurseries with kauri, what it would take to meet the requirements of Plant Pass kauri module.	By December 2022	Plant Pathogens advisor
	Scope likely costs of compliance with Plant Pass scheme for a representative range of DOC nurseries / shadehouses	By June 2023	TBC

Action Plan owned by: National Programmes and Coordination