



22 July 2011

Kauri National Park Proposal
Northland Conservancy Office
WHANGAREI
kaurinationalpark@doc.govt.nz

SUBMISSION FROM STRATERRA

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposal for a Kauri National Park, in Northland. Straterra¹ does so, having considered the economic, social and cultural, and environmental values.
2. It is accepted that the National Parks Act 1980 and the Conservation Act 1987 are narrower in scope, nonetheless, from a business perspective, a wide range of values would normally be considered in a land-use and management decision of this magnitude.
3. Straterra supports the proposal, as presented in the Department of Conservation's discussion paper, "Kauri National Park Proposal: An Invitation To Comment", for the following reasons.
4. Waipoua Forest and surrounding areas are iconic in the New Zealand context, principally because of the magnificent trees, and the accompanying ecosystems. There appears to be no dispute over this matter.
5. Accordingly, the area has intrinsic value for its biodiversity, as well as value to New Zealanders as a place to visit and experience, and as part of our national and regional identity, for Maori and non-Maori.
6. The kauri forests are a drawcard for recreation and tourism, providing related business opportunities in Northland, and further afield.
7. Given the forests are already protected as public conservation land, one might ask whether national park status is necessary. From a resource sector perspective, a change in land status would have a major implication, that of preventing access for exploration and mining, regardless of proposals for managing the effects on conservation values, and regardless of the economic and social benefits.
8. To the best of our knowledge, the area is not prospective for minerals. Nor is there any history of mining in the area.

¹ Straterra Inc offers a collective voice for the NZ resource sector. Membership comprises 84% by value of NZ minerals production (except oil & gas, and geothermal.) Straterra works closely with the petroleum sector, and has links to geothermal.

9. To our mind, the chief benefits of national park status are twofold: higher priority for management by the Department, which is important because of the risks of pests and diseases; and potentially higher awareness of the kauri forests as a place to visit, for New Zealanders and tourists, with flow-on benefits to the Northland economy. In this case, these benefits are achieved with no loss in terms of alternative resource-based economic opportunities, and presumably a marginal cost incurred by the Department that is within the budget and that meets their objectives.
10. It is, therefore, understandable that this proposal has been on the table for some considerable time, and that this has formed part of the priorities of the Minister of Conservation.
11. Straterra wishes the Department well in the development of the Kauri National Park.

Chris Baker
CEO
Straterra Inc
WELLINGTON