

New myrtle rust stakeholder group

A new Myrtle Rust Stakeholder Group is being formed to ensure priority actions in the new [Myrtle Rust Strategy 2019-2023](#) are implemented.

The strategy was published earlier this year to guide the collective approach to dealing with myrtle rust until 2023. Its vision is to ensure *the mauri of myrtle plants and dependent ecosystems is safeguarded and sustained*. After approving the plan the Myrtle Rust Governance Group disbanded, but agreed a stakeholder group should be formed to ensure that organisations with an interest in Myrtle Rust remain connected.

John Walsh, Director Readiness & Response for Biosecurity New Zealand (part of MPI), says membership will include government agencies, regional councils, Māori, Project Crimson, botanical gardens, New Zealand's Biological Heritage Ngā Koiira Tuku Iho, forestry and plant industry associations, and a representative of the Myrtle Rust Strategic Science Advisory Group.

The group's purpose is to:

- Support and encourage the sharing of knowledge between scientists, practitioners, organisations, communities and individuals.
- Ensure consistent messages are shared around the current situation, impacts and what to do about myrtle rust.
- Provide a platform for organisations to raise issues and consider actions.

The stakeholder group will meet three times a year. The first meeting is planned for next month.

October 2019