

Stakeholders staying aligned

Finding ways to keep all organisations with an interest in myrtle rust stay connected was the focus of the first meeting of the new Myrtle Rust Stakeholder Group in November.

Group members include government agencies, regional councils, Te Tira Whakamātaki Māori Biosecurity Network, Project Crimson, botanical gardens, New Zealand's Biological Heritage Ngā Koiora Tuku Iho, forestry and plant industry associations, a representative of the Myrtle Rust Strategic Science Advisory Group, and Beyond Myrtle Rust.

Key actions coming out of the meeting include:

- Biosecurity New Zealand (part of the Ministry for Primary Industries) will set up a working group to collate information on the distribution of myrtle rust (potentially including climate model data) and make it publicly available.
- Identifying the best channels to communicate information on the distribution and extent of myrtle rust infection and on the research and science programmes. This will include alignment of information across websites, e.g. www.myrtlerust.org.nz; [Ngā Rākau Taketake](#); [Beyond Myrtle Rust](#).

The Stakeholder Group will meet three times per year, with the next meeting in March 2020. Biosecurity New Zealand will chair the meetings (John Walsh, Director Readiness & Response) and provide the secretariat. Standard agenda items will include:

- an update from the Myrtle Rust Strategic Science Advisory Group
- status of myrtle rust from different sources of information
- round table updates

The Stakeholder Group was formed to replace the Myrtle Rust Governance Group, which disbanded after it completed the [Myrtle Rust Strategy 2019-2023](#). [Read more](#) about the group's purpose.

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