



Photo: National Publicity Studios Inset photo: Terry Fitzgibbon

As this edition of *Forest and Bird* is going to press, the fate of a 15 km stretch of Waipoua Road running through New Zealand's most famous stand of ancient kauris still hangs in the balance. The Ministry of Works and Development has already cut a 5-km swathe of destruction through the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, but protests from the Society about these "upgrading" efforts should force the ministry to be more sensitive. The upgrading was requested by the Northland Tourist Industry Board, which did not expect exotics to be planted on fill pushed into the forest, the famous Sir Joseph Ward kauri to be damaged or the roadside forest to be slashed back. The ministry's own Environmental Division condemned the work.

The photo shows two well known kauris which lie in the path of the "upgrading" — Darby and Joan — and the inset is a striking depiction of their eventual fate unless the ministry proceeds with more care. The nearest kauri has its roots cut by the culvert on the left, the other, the Sir Joseph Ward kauri, has its roots sealed over.

