

4 May 2018

Plant Imports
Plants, Food & Environment
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

By email: plantimports@mpi.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Draft Import Health Standard for *Actinidia* Plants

NZKGI represents New Zealand's 2,600 kiwifruit growers and gives growers their own voice in industry and government decision making. NZKGI works to advocate, protect and enhance the commercial & political interests of New Zealand kiwifruit growers.

Kiwifruit is New Zealand's largest horticultural export, with sales in 2016/17 of over NZ\$2 billion. This represents the value of almost half of all New Zealand's horticulture exports. In 2016/17 over 2,500 growers sold 138 million trays of kiwifruit to over 50 markets. The industry is experiencing strong growth which is expected to continue over the coming years.

Approximately 80% of New Zealand's kiwifruit crop is grown in the Bay of Plenty providing a significant contribution to the Bay of Plenty regional economy, with \$1.97 billion in revenue being generated for the region in 2015/2016.¹ The industry provides significant employment to the Bay of Plenty Region employing 10,762 FTE in the year 2015/2016¹. Zespri, the kiwifruit marketer, have committed to more than double global sales revenue to \$4.5 billion by 2025. The projected growth of the industry will contribute significantly to the Bay of Plenty GDP increasing it by 135% from 867 million to 2.04 billion by 2029/2030.¹ Employment in the kiwifruit industry is also expected to increase by 133% to 25,091 FTE by 2029/2030.¹

Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH) is a grower funded, pan-industry biosecurity organisation dedicated to protecting the New Zealand kiwifruit industry. NZKGI works very closely with KVH to ensure that the biosecurity interests of our collective growers are appropriately managed. The staff at KVH are experts in biosecurity especially as it relates to kiwifruit and NZKGI defers to their expertise.

This letter is to advise MPI that NZKGI fully endorses the submission on the draft import health standard for *Actinidia* plants made by Kiwifruit Vine Health including the external review arranged by KVH to inform their comments.

¹ Institute of Business Research, University of Waikato - The Economic Contribution of Kiwifruit Industry Expansion to the Bay of Plenty, Northland and New Zealand.

NZKGI understands the benefits that can be associated with the importation of new germplasm for our industry, but we have also seen the severe impact of pest incursions on our growers, most notably the incursion of Psa. While the overall industry recovery has been remarkable, many growers were severely impacted both economically and socially by the Psa incursion. We support the KVH call for a conservative approach, particularly with respect to uncertainty, to ensure risk is mitigated to a level acceptable to industry. The KVH submission and other technical submissions from the industry (including those of Zespri and Plant & Food Research) raise a number of issues. NZKGI asks that as the industry's biosecurity partner, MPI commits to addressing those questions in a fully transparent manner and engage in the discussions necessary to satisfy concerns before the Import Health Standard is finalised.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this process and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Nikki Johnson
CEO