

15 July 2019

Mayor Webber
Western Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Barkes Corner
Greerton
Tauranga 3143

Via email to Garry.Webber@westernbay.govt.nz

Dear Mayor Webber

Re: District Plan Seasonal Accommodation Proposed Changes

Over the past six months, Council has been proactively engaging with the industry on proposed District Plan changes to seasonal accommodation. Council ran a workshop earlier this year to share the proposed changes which was well attended by the industry. NZKGI staff and growers have spent a considerable amount of time and resources engaging with Council to refine the proposed changes. The most recent engagement from Council was a presentation on the proposed seasonal accommodation changes to the industry Accommodation and Transport working group on Thursday 13 June.

The industry has been supportive of a majority of the proposed changes and was appreciative to Council for their proactive approach. Therefore, it came as a complete surprise when we were advised by Council staff last week that all proposed seasonal accommodation changes had been removed from consideration because Council felt the industry wasn't paying its share in financial contributions. NZKGI believes this decision is counter productive and makes no sense when there is a shortage of seasonal accommodation throughout the Western Bay of Plenty region and a large presence of freedom campers in the surrounding area during peak harvest times.

The industry was unaware of specific concerns around financial contributions. The industry has no problem paying their fair share to ensure that existing rate payers are not burdened with additional costs, but we do not believe this discussion is linked to the proposed seasonal accommodation changes. The Council needs to explain its decision-making process to the industry. NZKGI has received significant feedback from the industry and propose a specific meeting between NZKGI, Post-Harvest CEs and yourself to discuss further. Please let me know when this meeting can be scheduled.

Yours sincerely



Nikki Johnson
Chief Executive