

6 December 2021

Hon Damien O'Connor  
Minister for Agriculture  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Minister O'Connor,

Via: [d.oconnor@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:d.oconnor@ministers.govt.nz)

**Re: Kiwifruit industry payrates and Seasonal Worker Survey**

I am writing to you regarding new information on payrates in the kiwifruit industry. New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc. (NZKGI) has recently completed a survey of kiwifruit employers to understand the average payrates for the 2021 harvest:

	<b>Per hour (excl. Holiday Pay)</b>	<b>Percent Increase to 2020</b>
Picking Green	\$27.03	14 percent
Picking Gold	\$29.24	18 percent
Packhouse (unskilled)	\$22.35	15 percent
Packhouse (skilled)	\$25.63	14 percent

The increase in payrates reflects the industry's ongoing shortage of seasonal labour and continued efforts to meet our Five Challenges<sup>1</sup>. These increases have been communicated to potential employees through both the general media and is also included in industry publications.

In addition to an increase in payrates, there was an increase in satisfaction levels amongst seasonal workers in 2021. A NZKGI survey completed by 519 seasonal workers stated that they were satisfied with the availability of work, level of pay and working conditions over the 2021 harvest. It is pleasing to note that the majority of responders indicated that they would be happy to work in the industry again. A copy of the survey results is attached to this email.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support towards the kiwifruit industry. The industry continues to experience regulatory and growth challenges and we look forward to working together on industry-led government enabled solutions to enable industry growth.

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<sup>1</sup> As Minister of Immigration, Hon Iain Lees-Galloway set the industry Five Challenges: to do more to employ more New Zealanders, consider paying workers more, consider automation, build accommodation for additional workers when extra crops are planted and to take responsibility for supply chains to stamp out exploitation.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Bond  
CEO New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc

Cc:  
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