

29 July 2025

**Hon Chris Bishop**

Minister for RMA Reform  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

**RE: Urgent interim solution required for expiring resource consents pending the replacement management system**

Dear Minister Bishop,

I am writing on behalf of New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc. (NZKGI) to raise urgent concerns regarding the expiring resource consents held by kiwifruit growers, particularly in the Bay of Plenty, and to request immediate direction and a workable interim solution as the Government progresses with the Resource Management Reform.

Using the Bay of Plenty as an example, over 600 resource consents are set to expire in 2026, with approximately 430 held by kiwifruit growers. Under the current Resource Management Act (RMA), renewal applications must be submitted at least six months before expiry to retain the right to continue operations. This process is both time-consuming and costly (ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars depending on the number and type of consents) particularly for growers managing multiple consents. It also places an unnecessary administrative burden on both applicants and councils, especially given that the upcoming system reforms are likely to require reassessment of these consents or render the current applications redundant.

The lack of clarity around implementation timeframes, consent requirements, and transition arrangements under the new legislation places growers in an impossible position. We respectfully request that the Government urgently provide a transitional framework or direction to allow current consents to be rolled over or recognised during the shift to the new system. This would prevent unnecessary expense and administrative duplication for both growers and councils and ensure business continuity while supporting the objectives of reform.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Bond  
Chief Executive Officer  
New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc.