



1 May 2017

Stephen Lamb  
Natural Resources Policy Manager  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council  
PO Box 364,  
Whakatane 3158

Dear Stephen,

**Feedback from Kiwifruit Vine Health and New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc. regarding the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) Discussion Document, 2017**

Thank you for your letter of 16 March 2017, inviting feedback as to how pests are managed in the Bay of Plenty region.

**Kiwifruit Vine Health** (KVH) is the agency established by kiwifruit growers to lead New Zealand's kiwifruit industry in managing all biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry. Kiwifruit includes all *Actinidia* species.

**New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc.** (NZKGI) was established in 1992 to represent the commercial and political interests of New Zealand's 3,000 kiwifruit growers of which 2,000 have orchards in the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's territory.

The kiwifruit industry is a major contributor to the economic and social well-being of the Bay of Plenty. It contributes 20 to 30% of the region's GDP and provides employment for up to 12,000 of the region's residents.

The kiwifruit industry has worked with Bay of Plenty Regional Council (Council) since 1998 to manage wild kiwifruit; and since 2011 to remove abandoned kiwifruit orchards in the region.

Council assisted the kiwifruit industry when Psa-V (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv *actinidiae*) was identified in late 2010; Council has also assisted MPI in responding to recent incursions of Queensland fruit fly – a serious pest threat to the kiwifruit industry.

The kiwifruit industry greatly appreciates, and would like to continue, the collaborative approach and partnership with Council to control wild kiwifruit. This partnership helps ensure that kiwifruit remains a robust, resilient industry and major contributor to the regional economy. It remains an outstanding example of local government/industry partnership to effectively manage aspects of biosecurity risk and protect regional biodiversity values.

For the last 18 months, KVH has undertaken the overall management role for the wild kiwifruit programme. Contractors have made very good progress in controlling infestations, mostly in the Te Puke – Tauranga areas. Council has effectively undertaken surveillance for wild kiwifruit, using the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to enter properties, often while undertaking surveillance for other RPMP species. Administration of the wild kiwifruit programme continues to be undertaken by KVH and Council – Council has powers available to complete the cost recovery component from landowners. KVH has no powers available to recover costs of controlling wild kiwifruit from landowners.



**Regarding the Discussion Document 2017, KVH and NZKGI provide the following specific feedback/requests:**

1. That Council continues to work collaboratively in partnership with KVH and landowners; and Council continues to recover the landowner portion of wild kiwifruit control costs.
2. That wild kiwifruit either remains a Progressive Containment pest or a Sustained Control pest that landowners are **required** to control. It is important that wild kiwifruit is destroyed at every detected site.
3. Landowners continue to be offered the option of using professional contractors who can effectively destroy wild kiwifruit plants. Wild kiwifruit can be difficult to effectively destroy, and are often found growing on steep or difficult terrain (contractors often abseil to infestations). Health and Safety requirements can be more effectively managed by professional contractors than private landowners working in these environments.
4. The definition of wild kiwifruit be amended to: “Any unmanaged plant material, self-propagated or abandoned plant of the *Actinidia* genus on private or public land”. This definition is used by KVH and would be consistent with that requested of other regional councils.
5. The wild kiwifruit control programme (including control programme contractor costs) continue to be funded by KVH, Council and landowners; and that the current level of funding provided by Council continue. Please note that although KVH has matched Council funding for control work, we have also agreed to work with Council staff to review the effectiveness of the current approach, and identify whether increased efforts need to be agreed to, in order to achieve a sustainable outcome. Related to this, KVH would like to work with Council to define required R&D projects.
6. Council continue to undertake and fund surveillance for wild kiwifruit (often completed while undertaking surveillance for other RPMP pests); and continue to assist with administration of the wild kiwifruit programme. Administration includes cost recovery from landowners.
7. KVH will continue with our lead-agency role in providing on-orchard/kiwifruit industry biosecurity advice; and managing within-New Zealand risk pathways for threat organisms to the kiwifruit industry. KVH could possibly work with Council on any future awareness initiative around ensuring best-practice for kiwifruit industry machinery hygiene to prevent the spread of pest organisms.
8. Note that KVH has worked collaboratively with Council to increase awareness and control (within orchards) of established pests such as moth plant, or low-incidence eradication pests such as alligator weed. KVH would like to continue with these initiatives.
9. KVH/NZKGI request that Council continues to support MPI-led responses to pest organisms that threaten regional kiwifruit, or other primary industries, or the wider public’s fruit or vegetable cropping activity. These organisms include Queensland fruit fly, brown marmorated stink bug and red-vented bulbul.
10. KVH has received reports of an increased population of Eastern rosellas in the BOP, with associated damage to kiwifruit and other fruit crops. The kiwifruit industry suggests that control options for Eastern rosellas be reviewed and publicised. Eastern rosellas should be including as a targeted pest in “possum hunt” or other sponsored regional pest control events.
11. KVH/NZKGI request that Council continues to support the Biosecurity 2025 initiative.

Thank you for considering these requests. KVH is happy to meet with you and Council biosecurity staff to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Barry O’Neil  
Chief Executive  
Kiwifruit Vine Health



Nikki Johnson  
Chief Executive  
New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers

