

22 May 2018

Environmental Protection Authority  
Private Bag 63002  
Wellington 6140

By email: [submissions@epa.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@epa.govt.nz)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: EPA Application APP203336**

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.<sup>1</sup> The industry provides significant employment to the Bay of Plenty Region employing 10,762 FTE in the year 2015/2016<sup>1</sup>. 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<sup>1</sup>. Employment in the kiwifruit industry is also expected to increase by 133% to 25,091 FTE by 2029/2030<sup>1</sup>.

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.

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

This letter is to advise the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) that NZKGI fully endorses the submission made by Kiwifruit Vine Health on EPA Application APP203336 - Application to seek pre-approval to release *Trissolcus japonicus* (the Samurai Wasp) as a biocontrol agent for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB).

NZKGI is very concerned at the risk and subsequent economic impact that BMSB poses to the Kiwifruit Industry should it arrive. While it is important to do everything possible to prevent its introduction to New Zealand, it is critical that we develop management options that could be utilised if it establishes here. It is equally critical that we have management options prepared so that they can be deployed immediately, and the EPA approval of the Samurai wasp is our best option.

In the event that the BMSB does establish in New Zealand it would result in significant economic impacts to most horticultural sectors resulting in a net impact to New Zealand's Gross Domestic Product estimated between \$1.8 billion and \$3.6 billion over 20 years. The Samurai wasp will be a critical tool in reducing the economic impact on the kiwifruit industry from BMSB.

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