

Vegetables New Zealand Incorporated Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 26 August 2026, 5.00pm
Tākina Wellington Convention & Exhibition Centre

- Present:** John Murphy (Chair), Alan Lim, Brendan Balle, Jay Clarke, Emma Lees, Jasmine Franklin, Robert Lyndsay, Warwick Simpson, Kirit Makan, Dean Langrell-Read, Ahash Varma, Quong Fong, Kiki Xu, Chris Lees, Edward Lee, Dr. Stuart Davis, Pierre Gargiulo, Neil Redling, Scott Fong, Simon Wilcox, Howie Young, Ben Smith, Andrew Kearney, Jon Davison, David Hadfield, Gordon McPhail, Lara Pritchard, Bernadine Balle-Gullieux (Director HortNZ), Calvin Gedy, Mike Arnold, Gareth Holder, Richard McPhail, Frank Hickmott, Doug Nilsson, Adam Jory, Cam Lewis, Leanne Roberts, Catherine Lewis, Brendan Herries, Geoff Lewis, Antony Bundle, Sam Rainey
- In Attendance:** Antony Heywood (CEO), Andrew Bristol (VNZI), Daniel Sutton (VNZI), Heidi Hitchman (Board Secretary), Doug Brown (Director Hort NZ), Arjune Dahya (HortNZ), Kevin O'Reilly, Neil Brigens, Brendan Eckert (HortNZ), Emily Levenson (HortNZ), Michael Coote (AusVeg) Lucy Greg (AusVeg),
- Apologies:** Barry O'Neill, Brydon Nisbet
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MINUTES

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 2025 Annual General Meeting.
The apologies were **accepted**.

*Frank Hickmott /Simon Wilcox
Carried*

2. Obituaries

A moments silence was held for:

- Alan Wilcox
- Tom Bagley
- John Stoner

3. Proxy Votes

No proxies were received.

4. Minutes 2024 Annual General Meeting

Remit 1:

That: the Minutes of the 2024 Annual General meeting held on 8 August 2024 were **accepted** as a true and correct record of the meeting.

*VNZI Board/Gareth Holder
Carried*

5. Chairs Report

The Chair John Murphy spoke to his report as presented.

Remit 2:

That: the Chair's Report for the year ended 31 March 2025, as published in the Vegetables NZ 2025 Annual Report, be taken as read and adopted.

*VNZI Board/Dean Langrell-Read
Carried*

6. Financial Statements

The Financial Report was **taken as read and the following noted:**

- Income down from previous year by 9%
- Balance Sheet is strong
- Additional staff required to undertake VNZI business activity
- Going forward the Board is going to review how we allocate Reserves. Our Reserves are currently allocated to Reserves – Biosecurity and Reserves – Business Continuity. Going forward there will be three Reserves funds.

Remit 3:

That: the audited Vegetables NZ Inc. Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 be adopted.

*VNZI Board/Kirit Makan
Carried*

7. Commodity & Biosecurity Levy (Remits 4 & 5)

Remit 4:

That: the commodity levy rate for Fresh Vegetables for the coming levy year remain at 0.30% for Domestic sales, and 0.20% for Export Sales (FOB).

*VNZI Board/Jasmine Franklin
Carried*

Remit 5:

That: the biosecurity levy rate for fresh vegetables domestic and export sales for the coming biosecurity levy year be set at 0.05%.

*VNZI Board/Mike Arnold
Carried*

8. Budget FY2026

The CEO Antony Heywood spoke to the budget presented for adoption.

A member noted that we should be drawing down on vege.co.nz reserves rather than paying further funds towards.

Remit 6:

That: the Vegetables NZ Inc. Budget for the year ended 31 March 2026 be endorsed.

*VNZI Board/Quong Fong
Carried*

9. Auditor Appointment for FY2026

It was noted that HortNZ and various Product Groups tendered for Auditors for FY2026. VNZI's existing Auditor was BDO (for 10 years) and part of the tender process. The tender requirements included fee savings and ability to service.

Remit 7:

That: PKF Kendons be appointed auditors for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

*VNZI Board/Gareth Holder
Carried*

10. Constitution (Remits 8-10)

Thanks were conveyed to everyone for the work putting the new draft Constitution together including VNZI Legal Counsel at JB Morrison.

Remit 8:

That: Vegetables New Zealand Inc. adopted changes to the Constitution as distributed in the 2025 Vegetables NZ Inc AGM papers under the title "Constitution Changes – required under re-registration"

*VNZI Board/Gareth Holder
Carried*

Remit 9:

That: Vegetables New Zealand Inc. adopted changes to the Constitution as distributed in the 2025 Vegetables NZ Inc AGM papers under the title "Constitution Changes – modernisation"

*VNZI Board/Leanne Roberts
Carried*

Remit 10:

That: the Vegetables NZ Board are empowered to make any changes to the Constitution as required by the direction from the Registrar of Incorporated Societies as part of re-registration, provided that these changes are ratified by members at the next Annual General Meeting.

*VNZI Board/Dean Langrell-Read
Carried*

11. Director Fees 2025-2026

It was noted that the Director fees were reviewed and had recommendation from an Independent Remuneration Committee. The fees recommended were in line with other Product Group Boards

Remit 11:

That: the Director fee structure be updated to \$600 per half day and no retainer for Directors, and \$700 per half day and \$35,000 annual retainer for the Chair.

*VNZI Board/Gareth Holder
Carried*

12. Director Election

Brendan Balle & Jay Clarke made themselves available for re-election.

Alan Lim & Nick Pollock retired and are not available. The Chair thanked Alan and Nick for their contribution to the Board and industry.

Standing for election were Robert Lyndsay previously as covered crops representative and Gordon McPhail.

Congratulations on your appointment to the VNZI Board:

- Brendan Balle
- Jay Clarke
- Gordon McPhail
- Robert Linsay

Following AGM the board will meet to vote on Chair and Vice Chair.

13. General Business

- Warwick Simpson provided a verbal update on the Vegetable Collaboration project with some of the Product Groups that is underway.
- AusVege joining VNZI Board and members for dinner tonight to chat about their 'one more serve campaign'.
- The HortNZ Chair provided a verbal update, noting that CEO Damian Farrelly has resigned and Catherine Lewis has been elected to the NZGAP Board.
- Brendan Balle & Jay Clarke were thanked for their time and effort in the advocacy space.
- Thank you to co-opted member Cam Lewis (Asparagus NZ) for his continued contribution to the VNZI Board.

Meeting Closed: 6.48pm

Confirmed

John Murphy
Chair VNZI

Date: