



16 August 2021

Submission on the Biosecurity (Information for Incoming Passengers) Amendment Bill

Submitter: Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

Submitted by: Nadine Tunley, CEO

INTRODUCTION

1. Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) advocates for and represents the interests of New Zealand's 6,000 commercial fruit and vegetable growers. The horticulture industry is valued at \$6.73b with \$4.55b in exports annually.
2. The industry employs over 60,000 people, occupies some 80,000 ha of land and provides critical regional development opportunities in Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Manawatu, Marlborough, Nelson, Canterbury and Central Otago.
3. New Zealand growers supply the majority of fresh and processed fruit and vegetables to domestic consumers, as well as exporting crops to discerning consumers overseas. Biosecurity is essential to support production, secure market access, and provide confidence for investment – all critical to ensure the horticulture industry continues to prosper.

COMMENTS ON THE AMMENDMENT BILL

4. Biosecurity is paramount for the horticulture sector and HortNZ's preference is to keep risk offshore wherever possible. We acknowledge that the border is our next line of defence. Strong pre-border and border biosecurity are critical parts of the system.
5. HortNZ supports efforts to increase passenger knowledge about New Zealand's biosecurity requirements on incoming craft. This biosecurity awareness has the potential to save our sector from significant economic losses if it prevents the arrival of an unwanted pest, pathogen or weed.

6. There are many exotic pests and diseases that we want to keep out of New Zealand. Examples of some that are particularly high priority for horticulture are:
- Fruit flies such as Queensland fruit fly and Mediterranean fruit fly. It is paramount that passengers know that they must declare or dispose of any fresh fruit or vegetables as there is a risk that these could be infested with exotic fruit fly eggs or larvae.
 - Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. This pest moves into homes and sheds overseas to overwinter and can inadvertently be packed by passengers if individual insects are hidden in clothes, tents or other items.
 - Exotic fungal pathogens that can be transported in soil on dirty footwear are also of concern.
7. HortNZ supports the Bill to amend the Biosecurity Act 1993 to require that craft coming to New Zealand provide biosecurity information to the persons on board by means of an audio-visual recording and writing. Providing clear and easy to understand biosecurity information on incoming craft should help to minimise undeclared biosecurity risks on the passenger pathway.
8. HortNZ supports the requirement for Director-General approval of the audio-visual and written material that summarises New Zealand's biosecurity requirements. We believe that this will ensure consistency of messaging across craft arriving into New Zealand.
9. The definition of 'craft' under the Biosecurity Act 1993 is very broad. HortNZ would appreciate clarification about whether this Amendment Bill is intended to capture all craft as per the definition?
10. HortNZ would like to suggest that translation is considered during implementation to ensure that all audiences understand the important biosecurity messaging being conveyed.

CONCLUSION

11. HortNZ welcomes the opportunity to discuss the points raised in this submission.

ENDS