



22 March 2018

Attention: Pest Review
Marlborough District Council
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to Marlborough District Council's Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan, from Kiwifruit Vine Health and New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated.

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 2,500 kiwifruit growers.

KVH works in partnership with Regional Councils and Territorial Authorities to identify and manage wild kiwifruit infestations throughout NZ. Although there are no commercial kiwifruit orchards in Marlborough, wild kiwifruit is likely to naturalise within your District. This could occur by, for example, plants germinating from seed within a kiwifruit discarded by a tourist or other person; or, birds (such as white-eyes) spreading seed from fruit within a compost pile, or unpicked fruit within a home orchard.

Please note that kiwifruit had naturalised in Rotorua's Redwood Forest after fruit was discarded by mountain bikers. Wild kiwifruit can be a fast-growing, destructive pest plant degrading the biodiversity value of indigenous forest and the productive value of exotic forest. Wild kiwifruit vines can cause the collapse of native bush or cut into the clear wood of a pine tree. Wild kiwifruit may also harbour biosecurity threat organisms such as the Psa bacterial disease.

Psa currently remains undetected in the South Island. Should Psa reach the South Island, it could spread from any wild vines in the Marlborough District to commercial kiwifruit orchards in the Nelson/Tasman region via wind movement.

Contractors control an average of 11,000 wild kiwifruit vines in the Bay of Plenty yearly. Wild kiwifruit has also been controlled in Auckland, Waikato, Gisborne and Nelson/Tasman regions. Wild kiwifruit readily naturalises in Nelson/Tasman region with approximately 40 sites recorded, therefore it is also likely to naturalise in Marlborough District. Roadside, exotic forest and native bush or scrub sites in Marlborough should be included in any future surveillance programme.

KVH and Bay of Plenty Regional Council co-funded a contract report by Dr Jon J. Sullivan, Department of Ecology, Lincoln University, "Assessing the cost effectiveness and future options for

wild kiwifruit management in the Bay of Plenty". The report concluded that there is a positive cost-benefit for controlling wild kiwifruit.

KVH and NZKGI make the following requests regarding Marlborough District Council's (MDC)

Proposed RPMP:

1. That wild kiwifruit be named an Exclusion Pest. **Explanation:** It is important that wild kiwifruit is promptly destroyed at every detected site. If female vines set fruit, then birds may spread kiwifruit seed resulting in further wild kiwifruit infestations. Control is more effective if undertaken by professional contractors rather than relying on landowners to achieve control.
2. The definition of wild kiwifruit be: "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.
3. That MDC include wild kiwifruit in the group of pest plants for which regional surveillance is undertaken.
4. That MDC and KVH work collaboratively on a public awareness initiative requesting the public to report any wild kiwifruit infestations in Marlborough District.
5. KVH, representing the kiwifruit industry, will consider any request from MDC to contribute toward the cost of destroying any detected wild kiwifruit infestation.

Further requests:

6. KVH thanks MDC for assisting with awareness for the threat organism, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). KVH and NZKGI request that MDC continue this awareness and assist MPI with any national response for threat organisms such as the BMSB and Queensland fruit fly.
7. KVH and NZKGI request that MDC continues to support the Biosecurity 2025 initiative.

Thank you for considering these requests from KVH and NZKGI. KVH can provide further information or present to any Committee considering submissions to the proposed RPMP.

Yours sincerely,



Barry O'Neil
Chief Executive
Kiwifruit Vine Health



Nikki Johnson
Chief Executive
New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers

