

## Tamarixia BCA application

### Preparing a submission to the EPA

#### **Background**

A collective of horticultural industry groups comprising Potatoes New Zealand Inc, Tomatoes NZ Inc, Vegetables NZ Inc, Heinz-Wattie's NZ Ltd, and NZ Tamarillo Growers Association Inc has applied to the EPA to import and release a biological control agent to assist with the control of the tomato potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*).

#### **Timeline**

26 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	The application to import and release <i>Tamarixia</i> was lodged with the EPA.
11 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	The EPA will publicly notify the application on the 11 <sup>th</sup> February and seek public submissions. This submission period is for 30 working days (11 <sup>th</sup> February to 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2016).
24 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	End of public submission period

#### **Making a submission**

- The application will be notified through the EPA website. This notification will also include instructions on how to make a formal submission.
- The EPA requests that all submissions are made via the EPA submission form but submissions may also be sent as an email or letter to the EPA. For details see: <http://www.epa.govt.nz/about-us/have-your-say/Pages/make-submission.aspx>
- Information you must include:
  - Your name and contact details (such as postal address, email address and/or telephone number).
  - The application number or what the submission is about
  - Your reasons for making the submission
  - Whether your submission is in support or in opposition
  - The decision you want the decision-making committee to make as a result of your submission (for applications)
  - Whether you wish to speak in support of your submission at any hearing that may be held (for applications).
  - If you're making a joint submission, clearly identify who the contact person is for the submission.

#### **Submission writing guidelines**

The submission form is quite simple but does require some specific content.

##### **1. Contact details**

Provide your contact details. If you are making a submission on behalf of an industry group or a collective grower group (e.g. Pukekohe vegetable growers association) then include a primary contact person.

##### **2. Application number**

The EPA application number for the *Tamarixia* application is APP201955

##### **3. Indicate whether you support or oppose the application**

It is important to clearly state your position (of support).

Briefly elaborate as to why (you support) the *Tamarixia* BCA application. It is important to explain how TPP has affected your business/industry

- Provide real examples if possible - such as xxx reduction in crop yields since TPP was detected, or \$xxxx increased production costs to control TPP.

It is also important to explain the release of *Tamarixia* as a BCA will potentially benefit your business and why you are supporting the release application.

Such reasons might include economic and environmental benefits. How releasing *Tamarixia* as a BCA of TPP will result in direct or indirect benefit to your business and/or to your local or regional economy.

Such reasons might include:

- reduced crop losses by improved control of TPP and reduction in the transmission of the bacterium *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*, the causal agent of Zebra Chip disease
- achieving improved crop quality and production (yields), production of high quality crops and increased \$/kg for crops
- reduced production costs
- reduced control costs through adoption of IPM programmes and reduced use of pesticides
- improved environmental outcomes through a reduction in reliance on broad spectrum insecticides and the use of selective chemistry that is compatible with IPM
- improved opportunities for export growth
- increased employment opportunities, contribution to the growth of local and regional economies that support the horticulture industry. For example, potential to employ xx number of additional staff in the next 5 years.

#### **4. Indicate whether you wish to be heard in support of your submission**

This indicates whether or not you might be prepared to speak to your submission at the hearing (if it is determined a hearing is needed).

Speaking at the hearing is not obligatory, and the Decision Making Committee will consider your written submission. However the applicant (in this case the collective horticultural industry groups) will be seeking a number of grower and industry representatives to appear at a hearing.

#### **5. Indicate what decision you would like the EPA to make**

This requires a summary paragraph such as the following:

That based on the reasons specified that you would like to request the EPA decision-making committee approve the release of *Tamarixia* as a BCA of TPP.