



BIOSECURITY NEWS

It's been a busy couple of months with lots happening across the regulatory space. There have been several updates and new opportunities to provide feedback – here's a quick overview.

The Health Select Committee has released its report on the Gene Technology Bill, recommending the Bill be passed – but with some amendments. SGNZ is working through what this means for members and will be providing further information in the coming weeks.

In other news, the EPA has extended the timeframe for its proposed group standard for treated seed. A second round of consultation is now planned for early 2026, giving everyone a bit more time to engage with the process.



Cressida Patrick
Biosecurity & Regulatory Manager



For exporters, MPI Plant Exports is reviewing how it recovers the cost of providing export phytosanitary certification and is asking for feedback by 31 October – now is the time to have your say if this affects you.

Lastly, SGNZ is organising a meeting with Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI Border) in late October to discuss current issues and priorities. If you have any feedback or topics, you'd like us to raise, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you.

Gene Tech Bill Update: Select Committee report released

The Health Select Committee has released its report on the Gene Technology Bill, recommending that the Bill be passed with amendments. The Health Select Committee's role was to review the Gene Tech Bill, consider public submissions, and suggest amendments. It's now up to Parliament to decide whether to accept those changes and whether the Bill should progress. At its Second Reading, MPs will debate the Bill and vote on whether it moves forward. If the vote is lost, the Bill does not proceed. NZ First have indicated they supported the changes present in the Select Committee report, but it would not support the Bill into law without further major changes (Radio New Zealand 13 October 2025).

The Health Committee report can be found on the Parliament website, [here](#). Submissions and advice received on the bill can be found on the Parliament website, [here](#).

SGNZ is working through the updated report and will release more information in the coming weeks.



Update on EPA's proposed group standard for treated seed

The EPA are currently analysing submissions and the further information received on the Proposed group standard for treated seed. Due to issues raised during the Q1 2025 submissions, a second round of public consultation is planned for early 2026, lasting around four weeks. SGNZ will be submitting on the second round of consultation and will be calling on members to ensure appropriate feedback is given.

Further information on the changes and amended timelines are available [here](#).

Visit the EPA website for any other information [here](#).

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is reviewing how much it charges to recover the costs of providing export phytosanitary certification for plant products (including seeds). The full consultation information is available [here](#).

MPI is proposing two options to reduce the projected deficit.

Option 1: Immediate recovery: Apply a one-off fee increase for 13 months from 1 December 2025 until 31 December 2026. (MPI's preferred option)

Option 2: Gradual recovery: Increase fees over 3 years (2025–26 to 2027–28).
Proposed rates (Information from Section 1.2 Tables 2 and 3)

Option 1 – Recover deficit over 13 months (MPI preferred approach)					
Phytosanitary fee per certificate	Current fee	1/12/25-30/12/26	1/1/27-1/7/27	2027/28 (FY)	Indicative 2028/29
Non-food products (seed)	\$24.77	\$120	\$49.50	\$50.49	\$49.25
Option 2 – Recover deficit over 3 years					
Phytosanitary fee per certificate	Current fee	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Indicative 2028/29
Non-food products (seed)	\$24.77	\$74	\$75.48	\$76.99	\$49.25

Note: Indicative 2028/29 rates decrease as growth in certificate volume is forecast to exceed inflation.

To smooth rate changes, MPI normally recovers deficits over three years. In this case, MPI is seeking to recover the \$2.731 million deficit over 13 months (1 November 2025 to 30 December 2026) as:

- the deficit has existed since 2020. However, a longer recovery period makes it more likely that costs would be recovered from firms who were not exporting when the deficit was incurred; and
- a shorter recovery period will ensure the increased fees impact exporters over a shorter timeframe, before resetting to the cost of delivering phytosanitary certification only.

MPI want to know:

- 1.Which pricing option is the preferred approach (Option 1 or 2)?
- 2.If there are factors or issues MPI should consider when addressing the current deficit in the phytosanitary certificate amount?
- 3.Any further details to support our preferred option?

SGNZ will submit on behalf of its members based on provided feedback. Feedback to date is that Option 2 is the preferred choice. Individual submissions are also welcome.

The EPA Visits Canterbury Seed Treaters

SGNZ, Barenbrug New Zealand and Luisetti Seeds hosted several EPA staff at their Canterbury seed treatment sites in mid-September.

The group used the opportunity to delve into the Proposed group standard for treated seed, highlighting those practical issues raised by members. The EPA were very engaged in the discussion and used the opportunity to go through questions they also had.



SGNZ are continuing to regularly engage with the EPA to contribute to their development of fit for purpose regulations for treated seed. We are hoping to host the EPA in the North Island later this year and are looking forward to continued collaboration.

A big thank you to Barenbrug New Zealand, Luisetti Seeds and Midlands NZ for sharing their expertise and to all those who helped make the visit a success.

Biosecurity Business Pledge: SGNZ Supports Strong Biosecurity

SGNZ is a member of the Biosecurity Business Pledge — a partnership that brings together New Zealand businesses committed to proactive biosecurity risk management.

The Biosecurity Business Pledge website offers free resources to all businesses, including non-members. These tools are designed to support governance and leadership in managing biosecurity risk. Key resources include:

- Biosecurity training module for any business – particularly Transitional Facilities
- Biosecurity Governance for New Zealand Boards and Business Leaders
- CEO Guide to the Management of Biosecurity Risk
- Biosecurity Considerations for Boards

These guides provide practical insights to help leaders strengthen biosecurity awareness and resilience across their operations.

To learn more and download your free copies, click [here](#):

Biosecurity Governance for New Zealand's Board Tables

Accountability for biosecurity risks should sit at the most senior levels of leadership and be on risk registers with regular reporting and discussion at senior levels. The CEO Guide to Managing Biosecurity Risk and Biosecurity Considerations for Boards are guidelines designed to support businesses in taking top-down leadership through the development of high-level biosecurity risk plans that can be tailored for individual companies. These guidelines are valuable tools that will shape efforts to protect our businesses, New Zealand's unique environment and the economy.

The guidelines were co-designed by members of the Pledge in consultation with a selection of Pledge chief executives and governors. If you have any questions about these guidelines or the Biosecurity Business Pledge, contact Debbie Teale, executive director of the Pledge – info@bbpledge.nz or phone 021 811 866

CEO guide to the management of biosecurity risk

Protecting your business, New Zealand's unique natural environment, its economy and our way of life.

CEO Guide to the management of biosecurity risk

Biosecurity considerations for Boards

Protecting your business, New Zealand's unique natural environment, its economy and our way of life.

Biosecurity considerations for Boards

Following a meeting with MPI in October, we were informed about ongoing detections of live pea weevil. You can currently treat pea seeds either off-shore or on-arrival in NZ and detections do not reflect a biosecurity failure. However, because of these ongoing detections we have been asked to reiterate best practice guidelines, which include:

When importing pea seed (particularly pea seed for on-arrival treatment) ensure:

- Outer seed packaging is robust
- Pallets are robustly sealed
- Packaging is strong enough to survive additional air cargo handling

What to do if you see pea weevil

If pea weevil is detected during unpacking or other handling, secure the infested seed, try to catch the pea weevil, photograph it and call MPI on 0800 80 99 66. Further information on pea weevil can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus: Ongoing Awareness

Australia is introducing new import testing requirements for tomato and capsicum seed. From 12 November 2025 – full information is available [here](#).

- only test reports from department-authorised laboratories will be accepted for ToBRFV (and Tomato Mottle Mosaic Virus, ToMMV)
- updated diagnostic protocols (qPCR) for testing ToBRFV and ToMMV must be used - setting a defined threshold cycle/quantification cycle (Ct/Cq) cut-off value of 35 to determine the results of each of the qPCR tests
- information required on lab reports needs to be updated

A webinar on how the UK is managing Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) is available [here](#). The webinar shares practical insights on how ToBRFV is affecting crop production, how it's being monitored, and strategies for outbreak management and risk reduction.

Contact Sarah or Cressida
if you have any questions
on any of the above.



Sarah Clark



Cressida Patrick

Upcoming Events

- Short Seed Course: 21st – 22nd October, Templeton
- [Asian Seed Congress](#): 17th – 21st November, Mumbai India
- Seed Treatment Training Course: late November/early December. More details to follow.
- Cultivar Performance Trials Field Tour, 5th December, Canterbury. Registration details to follow
- Foundation for Arable Research Events: [Click here](#)

Farm Saved Seed Declaration

Under a voluntary declaration, farmers who save and replant PVRE-protected seed pay the rights-holder an annual royalty based on usage per calendar year. The ability to collect royalties is an important part of ensuring incentives for research and development in plant breeding. In return New Zealand farmers receive improved yields and quality from new barley and wheat varieties. Royalties will only apply to those farmers who use saved seed varieties that are on the eligible list and protected by law. [Click here](#) for more information and the declaration form.

Young Radicles Group

If you haven't yet subscribed to the Young Radicles group, email [Sharon](#) to be added to the mailing list. The group is aimed at 35 years and under who are working in the Seed and Grain industry to come together for networking opportunities, exposure to businesses and industry bodies. Information is sent out via the Young Radicle newsletter, topical webinars are held, social events and the committee are working on field trips.



Committee members below left to right: Fred Milford-Cottom: Chair (H&T); James Taylor (SPS); Celia Hutchinson (Barenbrug) and Cassidy Sprott (PGG)

Thank you

 **PGG Wrightson Seeds**

Sponsor Young Radicles

TradeWindow Partnership

Benefits of using TradeWindow Origin

- Digital certificates of origin within minutes, for pre-approved goods
- Submissions are available 24/7, removes wait times and puts you in control
- Weekday assistance with new goods that require approval
- Self-service or assisted initial goods setup
- A friendly customer support team to help guide you through your setup and answer any questions you have

Click here to read more about the partnership: [Seed and Grain](#)

Christchurch Airport Parking

Do you and your staff travel and need affordable and secure airport parking?

Airpark Canterbury offers just that and as a member of Seed & Grain New Zealand you can sign up to receive the following benefits:

- Parking at a discounted rate of \$25.00 per day
- Free drive through car wash with every booking
- 10% discount on all onsite workshop servicing, brakes and tyres
- 10% discount on all onsite hand car grooming services
- Ability to use both Airpark Canterbury at 17-25 Logistics Drive and 264 Russley Road
- All bookings made will be charged to a monthly account, at the agreed rate

Email [Sharon](#) for more information.



President: Edward Luisetti

Immediate Past President: Charlotte Connoley

Business Group Chairs

Forage & Turf Business Group: Richard Merrilees

Grains & Pulses Business Group: Edward Luisetti

Vegetable Seed Business Group: Jo Townshend

Services to Seed Business Group: Steve Pugh

General Councillors

Tom Sherratt

Stephen Bennett

Sam Clarke

Chief Executive: Sarah Clark

Biosecurity & Technical Manager: Cressida Patrick

Operations & Event Manager: Sharon Dawe



Ed Luisetti President & Chair
Grains & Pulses Business Group



Charlotte Connoley: Immediate
Past President



Steve Pugh
Chair Services to Seed



Jo Townshend
Chair Vegetable Seed Group



Richard Merrilees
Chair Forage & Turf Group



Stephen Bennett
General Councillor



Tom Sherratt
General Councillor



Sam Clarke
General Councillor

Meeting Schedule of SGNZ Executive Council

- Wednesday 5th November 2025: Templeton

If you have any matters to raise with the Executive Council, please contact Sarah Clark