

NZGSTA Newsletter September 2019



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This newsletter covers the following items of interest:

- IHS Update – Pelleted seeds
- UWG commodity levy – Collection agent fee to be reduced
- GE legislation needs overhaul
- Seed certification - Modernisation project
- National Party reshuffle – New Agriculture spokesman
- Plant Variety Rights Act reform – Submissions closing
- NZGSTA Annual Conference 2019 – Rotorua
- Rescue helicopter fund raiser
- Industry Golf day
- NZGSTA Centennial book- available for order

<b>President:</b>	George Gerard 027 447 4807
<b>Vice President:</b>	Evan Johnston 027 333 3480
<b>Past President:</b>	Barry McCarter 027 255 3022
<b>Chair: Forage &amp; Turf Business Group</b>	Callum Davidson 027 648 8935
<b>Chair: Vegetable Seed Business Group</b>	Charlotte Connoley 021 301 677
<b>Chair: Grains &amp; Pulses Business Group</b>	Peter Burton 027 444 5122
<b>Chair: Services to Seeds Business Group</b>	Evan Johnston 027 333 3480
<b>General Councillors:</b>	
Stephen Tait	027 439 3382
Mark Johnson	027 440 4839
Michael Hales	021 827 063
<b>General Manager:</b>	
Thomas Chin	021 679 989

**Administration:**

Tricia Radford

027 478 3508

Import Health Standard – Pelleted seeds

**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is amending the import health standard for *seed for sowing*, specifically in relation to the requirements for pelleted seeds.

Some proposed changes relate to the:

- Rose Souza Richards advised the timeline from the consultation period to the finale. Roughly 30 – 40 days for the draft, so mid-September until release for discussion. Then consultation 60 days to enable trading partners to review, this will then take to December depending on volume of submissions with release in January provided there is nothing else that will take priority.

Provided that no further high priority pieces of work arrive that requires immediate attention from the Plant Germplasm (Imports) team the following is expected:

1. **September 2019** - Final draft of the Risk Management Proposal document which outlines the rationale for the proposed measures and the new Import Health Standard will be ready in 30 to 45 days for public consultation.
2. **September 2019** – Start of the consultation period for 30 days nationally and 60 days for the international consultation.
3. **November 2019** – Consultation finishes.
4. **December 2020** – Review of Submissions. MPI is required to review all the submissions and release it to the submitters. The time required to do this varies depending on the number and content of submissions. Could range from 15 - 30 days.
5. **January 2020** – Final IHS is released.

UWG commodity levy – Collection agent fee to be reduced

The United Wheatgrowers industry group is in the midst of pushing to renew their commodity levy.

The Commodity Levy Act framework provides the mechanism for UWG to raise funds from industry members to fund crop insurance activities.

The law also requires wholesalers, flourmills, feed mills, and grain and seed merchants to collect the levy. Presently collection agents are paid a 5% fee for performing the service. UWG proposes to reduce the fee to 1.5%.

Industry members who have any comments on the proposal are entitled to provide comments to [UWG](#) and the Minister of Agriculture.

### GE legislation needs overhaul



The [Royal Society](#) issued a [report](#) on 12 August saying NZ's regulations surrounding gene technology are out of date and they need to be revised. Specifically, they called for the removal of regulation for gene editing and for the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms legislation to allow gene editing of plants.

Some key points in the Society's paper includes:

- Definitions in regulation are no longer fit for purpose
- NZ is an outlier in regulations eg Australia has exempted some gene editing
- Changes made by gene editing can be exactly the same as changes caused by naturally-occurring mutations. Spotting the difference would be very difficult
- NZ's process-based system is becoming obsolete versus the outcome.

### Seed certification - Modernisation project

The Seed Quality Management Authority (SQMA) is leading a new phase of work to modernise our seed certification information system that underpins our \$400m NZ seed industry.

The current seed certification information database was established in the early 1990s to provide assurances to consumers that seed marketed domestically

and traded internationally has high varietal purity. There are also strict rules to be followed in the production and processing of certified seed.

Seed certification also works to ensure traceability with distinct varieties, tracking the generations through multiplication in the field, using crop inspection, unique seed lot identification and through sampling and then to testing while following internationally agreed-upon standard methods.

And later in the year, the SQMA intends to do a roadshow on proposed industry governance and structure once more investigative work has been completed.

### National Party reshuffle – New Agriculture spokesman



In July, Nathan Guy announced his resignation from Parliament in 2020. His portfolios of Agriculture, Biosecurity and Food Safety have gone to Todd Muller.

Muller was elected to Parliament in 2014 and is the MP for Bay of Plenty. Prior to Parliament he was GM at Zespri, CE of Apata Ltd, and most recently a Director for Fonterra.

### PVR Act reform – Submissions closing

Written submissions on the issues raised in MBIEs Options Paper will close on 9 September.

MBIE will analyse the submissions and provide advice to the Minister of Commerce the Hon Kris Faafoi who will in turn report to Cabinet to confirm policy decisions. It is expected that a PVR amendment Bill will be introduced to Parliament in April/May 2020.

## NZGSTA Annual Conference 2019 – Rotorua



### **HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE 101ST CONFERENCE YET**

The 2019 NZ Grain & Seed Trade Association Annual Conference is being held October 23-24 in Rotorua.

Registration can be completed and paid online by going to the NZGSTA conference page (click [here](#) to access). Email [Tricia](#) and she'd be happy to answer any queries you may have.

The Conference program includes:-

- Business Group Meetings;
- AGM, including Executive General Council and Presidential elections at the conference. Nomination forms are available for members wishing to nominate someone;
- Updates from MPI on imports and exports;

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Hon Shane Jones** - Minister of Regional Economic Development
- **Prof Paul Spoonley**, Pro Vice Chancellor, Massey University
- **Stephen Lee**, CEO, Mānuka Farming NZ Ltd
- **Roelf Schreuder**, Director, NZ Gourmet
- **Stu Hutchings**, CEO, Kiwifruit Vine Health

Field trip to Scion and Blueberry Farm

[NZGSTA Centennial book- available for order](#)



*Seeds of success* – a history of the Association written by Dave McKinnon is available for purchase from the Association.

You can place orders on the [NZGSTA site](#) from \$39.95.

The book is ideal as a gift to domestic and overseas customers, and for anyone interested in the history of the trade.

### [Air Rescue Challenge](#)

#### **Did you know it costs \$5000 to send out the Rescue helicopter for just one mission?**

Help our team raise enough for one mission, if not two! We are competing in the Canterbury Westcoast Air Rescue Team Challenge – Sunday 22 September at the Garden City Helicopter base near Christchurch Airport. The Challenge: A team of four competing in mental and physical challenges designed by the Air Rescue team to emulate the challenges they face on rescue missions.

Our team will be having a tent on the day – come down to the Garden City Helicopter base near Christchurch Airport and support the team. If you'd like to sponsor the team, follow the link below to donate:

<https://rescuecrewchallenge2019.everydayhero.com/nz/gsta-gladiators-2>

### [Industry Golf day.](#)

Save the date - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October from 12pm at McLeans Island Golf Club.

This year we are joining the North Canterbury Seed Merchants Annual Tournament.

'The Duncan Storrier Memorial Trophy will be presented to the best performing NZGSTA Member or Team' (probably work it that if the winning team are all NZGSTA members then it will be a team win, or if a mixed team wins – the NZGSTA member or members in that team will receive the trophy).

**To register please email [Tricia](#)**

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[Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council for 2019](#)

**to be held at the Seed Industry Office unless otherwise stated:**

- 9am, 22 Oct 2019 (in Rotorua)

Please advise Thomas Chin of any matters you wish to have discussed at a meeting.

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Phone: 03 349 8430

Email: [thomas.chin@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:thomas.chin@seedindustrynz.co.nz)

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