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RE: Application APP201774

Dear Applications Administrator

CHRISTCHURCH

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Federated Farmers supports the application of Grasslanz Technology Ltd (the applicant) to release the epichloae endophytic fungus, *Neotyphodium* sp., to the environment in the process of improvement of rye-corn and potentially other cereal grasses.

Closely related endophytes have already proven to significantly increase the feed production potential of ryegrass based pasture by providing deterrence against key pastoral pests such as Argentine Stem Weevil and Black Beetle and by aiding persistence in times of moisture deficit. The applicant notes that the capability of the New Zealand scientific community is foremost among the world in this area of research and farmers' experience supports this assertion. New Zealand farmers also have a high level of understanding and experience with the management of crops and pastures that make use of this type of technology.

The harvest of cereals, either for grain or as silage, is an important part of the feed regime on many livestock farms. The introduction of a novel endophyte that may be able to provide the same benefit to the production of these crops as other types of novel endophyte have to pasture crops without compromising animal health and performance, is welcomed by farmers.

The study and development of novel endophytes in New Zealand has shown that they cannot transfer between species and transfer between plants is only by presence in the seed and colonisation of the seedling. Based on past experience and the evidence presented in the application, Federated Farmers is satisfied that it is highly unlikely that any adverse effects will be experienced through unanticipated spread.

We support the applicant's statement that rye-corn as an annual crop, only grown in suitably cultivated and/or managed paddocks and that a self sustaining population in an undesirable area is unlikely.

Federated Farmers Bees Industry Group has been consulted in the writing of this letter and has no concern or objection to the approval of the application.

Yours sincerely

Nick Hanson  
Policy Advisor  
Federated Farmers of New Zealand