



DECISION

Date	16 December 2016
Application Code	APP203029
Application Type	Determination of whether or not any organism is a new organism under section 26 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996
Applicant	Ministry for Primary Industries
Date Application Received	24 November 2016
Consideration Date	16 December 2016
Considered by	A decision-making committee of the Environmental Protection Authority (the Committee) ¹ : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr John Taylor (Chair)• Dr Kevin Thompson
Purpose of the Application	To determine if <i>Neocaridina denticulata</i> and <i>Caridina cantonensis</i> are new organisms under section 26 of the HSNO Act

1. Decision

1.1 The Committee has determined under section 26 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 that *Neocaridina denticulata* and *Caridina cantonensis* are new organisms for the purposes of the Act.

2. Application and consideration process

- 2.1 The application was formally received on 24 November 2016.
- 2.2 The information that the Committee took into consideration included:
- the application
 - the EPA staff assessment report.

¹ The Committee referred to in this decision is the subcommittee that has made the decision on this application under delegated authority in accordance with section 18A of the Act.

- 2.3 The determination was made in accordance with section 26 of the HSNO Act. Determinations under section 26 of the HSNO Act do not require public notification.
- 2.4 In accordance with section 26(5)(b) of the HSNO Act, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), as the most likely government departments or Crown entities to hold further relevant information regarding *Neocaridina denticulata* and *Caridina cantonensis*, were given the opportunity to comment.
- 2.5 DOC advised that they have no evidence that *Neocaridina denticulata* or *Caridina cantonensis* are present in New Zealand. DOC noted that neither species of shrimp were recorded in a 2005 report on 'Freshwater aquarium fish imports and invasiveness: a New Zealand evaluation' produced by the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) or in a 2010 article produced by Dr IC Duggan of The University of Waikato on 'The freshwater aquarium trade as a vector for incidental invertebrate fauna'. DOC also noted that neither species is listed on the farmable fish list gazetted in 2012 in the New Zealand Gazette, No. 139, under notice number MPI 102.
- 2.6 MPI was the applicant for APP203029 and all their comments were contained within the application.

3. Reason for the decision

- 3.1 For an organism to be determined to be a new organism under section 26 of the HSNO Act, the organism must be shown to meet section 2A of the HSNO Act.
- 3.2 The Committee evaluated the available information regarding *Neocaridina denticulata* and *Caridina cantonensis* against the section 2A(1)(a) criterion: a new organism is "an organism belonging to a species that was not present in New Zealand immediately before 29 July 1998".
- 3.3 The Committee noted that there are no *Neocaridina denticulata* or *Caridina cantonensis* specimens present in any of the following collections in New Zealand:
- Auckland War Memorial Museum's specimen collection
 - Te Papa's Natural environment collection
 - Otago Museum's vertebrate collection
 - Canterbury Museum's invertebrate collection
 - New Zealand Organisms Register.
- 3.4 The Committee noted that NIWA have no records of *Neocaridina denticulata* or *Caridina cantonensis* prior to 29 July 1998.
- 3.5 The Committee noted that the only freshwater shrimp species endemic to New Zealand is *Paratya curvirostris* (Heller, 1862).

- 3.6 The Committee noted that searches of all scholarly articles and NatureWatch NZ relating to the presence and distribution of *Neocaridina denticulata* and *Caridina cantonensis* show no evidence that the two species are or have ever been imported into, or established in, New Zealand.
- 3.7 The Committee noted that under the current Import Health Standard for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates from All Countries issued under s22 of the Biosecurity Act in April 2011 no freshwater invertebrate species can be given biosecurity clearance into New Zealand.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Taking into account all the available information, the Committee considered that, on the balance of probability, *Neocaridina denticulata* and *Caridina cantonensis* do meet the definition of new organisms as defined in section 2A(1)(a) of the HSNO Act, as the organisms have not been shown to be present in New Zealand prior to 29 July 1998.
- 4.2 In accordance with section 26 of the HSNO Act, and having regard to the relevant information, the Committee has determined that *Neocaridina denticulata* and *Caridina cantonensis* are new organisms for the purposes of the Act.



Dr John Taylor
Chair, Decision Making Committee
Environmental Protection Authority

Date 16 December 2016