

File ref APP203660



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Dear Rosemary

Reassessment of methyl bromide

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has received an application from Stakeholders in Methyl Bromide Reduction Inc (STIMBR) to reassess methyl bromide, which we have decided to process as a publicly notified, modified reassessment. Public notification (pursuant to s53 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (the Act)) will occur when the EPA has received further information as requested from the applicant (having extended the statutory time frame for public notification pursuant to s59 (4) of the Act). In the meantime, we are seeking any existing, relevant information the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade may have in response to the questions below. This request is made under section 58(1)(b) of the Act.

We trust that you are the right person to ask for this information, and trust that you will also speak with your colleagues at the Ministry when collating the relevant information.

As mentioned above, please can you provide any existing, relevant information you hold that might assist us in answering and evaluating the following:

1. Which countries (if any) require exports from New Zealand be treated with methyl bromide prior to export to that country? Please can you include information relating to these requirements, if possible by country, which sectors and products are affected by these requirements (whether current and or dependant on future export restriction zones that (would) require additional requirements to be met before produce within it would be eligible for export), what those requirements entail, the volume of each product treated, and the value of each treated product (in both NZD and percentage of the total export value of that product).
2. Is New Zealand in negotiations with any trade partners to introduce, increase, or decrease the use of methyl bromide required prior to exports to those countries? What is the current status of discussions (if any) with trade partners involving the use of methyl bromide for export or biosecurity purposes?

3. Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have any other information it considers pertinent regarding the use of methyl bromide and recapture technologies in New Zealand which may facilitate the evaluation and consideration of this application?

The EPA requests the above information to aid in the evaluation of the reassessment application. It will be used by the EPA to prepare a report, containing a summary of the application and advice to a decision-making committee.

In addition, we intend to share any information you provide when we publicly notify the application. This is to provide a comprehensive information pack on which any public submission can be made. If you consider that any part of the information you provide should not be made public, please can you include a justification for this, taking into consideration the requirements of section 57 of the Act.

We have asked the applicant to provide further information on their application and have agreed a deadline of 28 June 2019 for provision of that information. In order to collate all relevant information prior to public notification, we ask that the information we are seeking from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade be provided in the same timeframe; that is, by close of business on 28 June 2019.

If you do not wish to make a comment in response to the above questions, then please can you confirm this by 28 June 2019.

Yours sincerely

