



16 June 2020

Tipene Wilson
Chair Decision-making Committee
c/ Environmental Protection Authority
Reassessments@epa.govt.nz

Submission on the extension of the recapture deadline

Dear Tipene,

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) supports extending the methyl bromide recapture deadline by 6 months from 28 October 2020 in order to give industry some certainty and time for a decision on the reassessment to be reached.

MPI notes that the use of methyl bromide is significant for New Zealand's biosecurity and trade. For example, the Indian market for exports of logs and timber is worth around \$240 million/annum in 2018/19.

Furthermore, there is a substantial uncertainty about whether any methyl bromide fumigations conducted in New Zealand using available recapture equipment will meet the current recapture target. MPI is aware that purchasing the equipment is a significant expenditure for fumigation companies and several companies have held off purchasing units due to this uncertainty.

MPI acknowledges that any decision on the reassessment would take precedence over the waiver application such that if a different timeframe is set in the reassessment this would take effect and the waiver would no longer apply.

MPI supports the application to ensure that exports to India remain certain prior to 28 October and beyond, by extending the recapture deadline by 6 months in order for a decision on the reassessment to be reached.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shane Olsen'.

Shane Olsen
Manager, Plant Exports

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