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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Reassessments](#)
Subject: HC Phase out submission
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Attachments: [Submission- HiCane.docx](#)

Please find our submission attached

David & Julie Hayes
Katikati
NZ

D&J HAYES Submission to EPA on proposed HC phase out

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Reassessments
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Your name	David & Julie Hayes
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I do not wish to speak about my submission at the hearing

I do not support the EPA recommendation to ban hydrogen cyanamide (hicane) with a five year phase out period

My orchard is in the Western Bay of Plenty region and I have 6 hectares of green/gold. I have been growing kiwifruit since 1990 and have been using hicane since this 1990. I use hicane on my green/gold crop. I spray hicane myself on my Orchards. As far as I am aware, I have had no medical implications from using hicane

The following systems are used on my orchard to spray hicane

We have strict protocols in handling and transfer. We purchase in 20ltr containers to avoid decanting and drum pumping. We have secure storage and approved handlers certification.

These are the Health & Safety measures taken on my orchard to protect worker exposure and minimise risks to the environment and to bystanders on my orchard

We have the following safety measures in place:

- Evergreen boundary shelters
- Internal netting shelters
- PPE worn for all handling and application
- Air induction nozzles on machinery
- Use driftstop
- Signage
- Community notification
- SDS sheets on hand
- Spill kit
- Accurate record keeping

If Hicane is banned, it would be detrimental to our family and business with both its financial and mental wellbeing impact.

We have two full time staff and employ up to 23 others on contract basis. This means up to 25 families rely on our financial stability to house and feed their families. In five years time to be no longer able to employ these staff, pay our mortgage and feed and clothe our own family would be disastrous. With reduced employment available throughout the entire kiwifruit industry it would prove very difficult for our staff and ourselves to find replacement work in our rural horticulture town of Katikati. This will have a huge impact on our mental health and I truly do fear for an increase in suicides within the kiwifruit industry . THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!

Our current land value – with green kiwifruit is approx. \$800k per hectare If Hicane was not used in the green industry , growing green would be financially not viable therefore the land value would decrease to bare land value of approx. \$250k per hectare.

Using our current crop numbers we have calculated that the cost to us personally if HC were phased out – to be between \$48 -\$65k a hectare – meaning a decrease in income of up to possibly \$390k per annum. Simply unsustainable

If Hicane was not used in the green industry , growing green would be financially not viable – the costs would outweigh the income -therefore the land value would decrease to bare land worth of approx. \$250k per hectare. . Ultimately meaning sale of land or change in use - most probably residential subdivision which would mean a higher impact on the environment, nearby waterways, roading and infrastructure..

Small rural towns such as Katikati, Te Puke, Kerikeri and Opotiki would suffer drastically with many people moving away from the area due to unemployment – thus having a negative impact on schooling, retail, and service business.

The kiwifruit industry is the largest employer within these rural towns, Incorporating minority and diversity groups and providing employment and tertiary support for the youth.

I do not believe the EPA Cultural assessment is an accurate representation of a range of views – it also does not have structured evidence to support the views expressed.

Bird activity during Hicane season on my orchard is minimal as the kiwi fruit canes are in their dormant period .with scarce food sources available for birds.

I have been the applicator of HC for thirty years to which there have been no health adverse issues arise – I have regular health check ups and bloods via my local GP –

I feel it is very unfair and biased of the EPA to not allow an extension to submissions requested by our industry voice – NZKGI. The EPA do not currently have satisfactory expert advice on which they can make such an important decision. Allowing the toxicology specialist reports to be finalised and published is vital to the industry for a clear unbiased solution.