

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Reassessments](#)  
**Subject:** Hi-Cane Reassessment EPA  
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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 (hican) with a five year phase out period

My orchard is in the Te Puke region and I have 4.6ha green, 9.85ha gold & 2.3ha Red.

Our orchard has been in the family for 21 years starting with green. But it is ancestral land which our family has farmed for many generations. I do not spray Hi-cane but the management company who runs our orchard does and exceeds the requirements currently.

Systems in place.

One person mixing product in full protective suit, including full face mask and respirator, gloves. They mix product by pumping out of a drum with Litre gauge counter.

Positive pressure cab for spray applicator who stays in cab for the whole job.

Air induction nozzles are used, drift stop is added to the spray to minimise drift.

Every block on our orchard has natural shelter around it. It is trimmed every year to maintain density to minimise wind. Our orchard has temp probes, rain gauge and wind meter these are all used to make sure Hi-cane is only sprayed in the optimal conditions.

Without the use of Hi-cane our green orchard would definitely be unprofitable. Our orchard is located in Maketu and conditions are too warm over winter. Without Hi cane as a bud break enhancer our crop yields would drop from 10-15,000 trays/ha to 6-8000 trays/ha (Green). At this level costs would be higher than income. The Gold and Red yields would drop as well. From 15,000 trays/ha to 10-12,000 (Gold) but costs would increase. As flowering would be longer, making every job longer, making picking harder by the delay in all fruit ripening at the same time. For our orchard 40% decrease in profitability for Gold would be realistic.

Red costs would go up as well for the same reasons however it would go from 10,000 trays/ha to 6,000 so would likely be unprofitable.

I'm involved with a few Maori trusts which sole income is green Kiwifruit. Removing Hi-cane would be the end of those trusts as they are not profitable without it. Costs in green have gone up through labour shortages etc already this last year. They cannot survive another major price increase. There are no alternative Hicane productions for green. The products for Gold are variable year

to year and location.

I believe the EPA recommendation when it comes to birds. However there are no birds in the orchard during the spraying of Hicane. There is no growth on the kiwifruit vines. As vines are dormant at this time. The grass is mowed prior to spraying removing any remaining food for birds within orchard.

My view is that the cost will be higher then estimated by the EPA to business, families, trusts, Iwi etc. And there are no alternatives currently. Once new varieties not reliant on Hi-cane or reliable products can be found for each variety then this discussion could be had again.

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