



APPLICATION SUMMARY

Application number	ERMA200907 - N fix bacteria
Application type	Notified, Non-GM Release, Full Release
Applicant	Stefan Pollard
Purpose	To import three nitrogen-fixing bacteria for release.
Date formally received	20 February 2012

Application summary prepared by Stefan Pollard

This application seeks to import three live species of microorganisms that are new to New Zealand which can take nitrogen from the air and convert it to a form that plants can use (nitrogen-fixing bacteria).

New Zealand agricultural and horticultural sectors rely, to a large extent, on synthetic fertilizers to supply nitrogen to crops. However, the use of such fertilizers is a massive cost to these industries. It is also unsustainable and leading to groundwater, rivers and drinking supplies being degraded. Globally, nutrification also contributes to dead zones in the world oceans and can increase greenhouse gas emissions.

The three microorganisms are used successfully in both conventional and registered organic systems in numerous applications around the world. Research shows that these microorganisms pose no risk to the environment.