

7 August 2019

To whom it may concern

In support of the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association's (PVGA) submission on Waikato Regional Variation 1 to plan change: Healthy Rivers Wai Ora plan for change

As a non-profit organization representing the entire fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain in New Zealand, we feel it is important to support PVGA on this submission.

Aspects of the proposed changes in the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora plan, such as the Nitrogen Reference Point will apply pressure to the horticulture sector, therefore impacting the volume of fresh produce available for consumption.

In New Zealand, our population falls short of the daily recommended intake of vegetables with only 61% reaching the required amount for good health (Ministry of Health Health Survey, 2017/18). In order to maintain and increase our intake, it is necessary for vegetables to be accessible. Pressure on our prime horticulture areas will lead to decreases in accessibility due to cost and availability.

Additionally, with the Auckland's population set to expand, the demand for locally grown vegetables will increase over the coming years. Pukekohe as a growing hub remains of vital importance.

Yours sincerely



Jerry Prendergast
President
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