KVH Consultation Paper

Proposed Revocation of Regional boundaries within Recovery regions

Summary

- The National Psa Pest Management Plan (NPMP) New Zealand has provided for kiwifruit growing regions to be classified as Exclusion, Containment or Recovery based on the prevalence of Psa.
- Psa is a windborne bacterium and over the past seven years has become widespread, with most growing regions now classified as Recovery, and most orchards as Psa positive. This has negated the benefit of some of the historical regional boundaries.
- There remains ongoing risk associated with the movement of new or evolving forms of Psa.
- There are currently restrictions of movement of nursery kiwifruit rootstock plant material between Recovery regions, while budwood and pollen movements do not have the same restriction of movement policies.
- The kiwifruit industry is going through a rapid growth phase and the current restrictions are creating some issues for distribution of adequate plant material to support this growth.
- There is to be a review of the Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS) with a view to aligning biosecurity risk management policies for all plant material to ensure a biosecurity resilient kiwifruit industry including robust plant movement traceability.
- It is proposed to remove the historical within Recovery region boundaries effectively leaving a single but geographically separate Recovery region, three Exclusion regions and no (current) Containment regions (see map on page 5).
- It is proposed that consultation and calls for submissions on this revocation would run from Thursday 7 June 2018 for three weeks until midday Monday 2 July 2018 with implementation (if consensus of approval received) from Monday 16 July 2018.

Introduction

Five years on from establishing the National Psa-V Pest Management Plan (NPMP), the kiwifruit growing landscape has significantly changed. We seek your feedback on the proposal to remove regional boundaries within many of the existing Recovery regions to provide a clear and consistent approach to managing risk while supporting the future growth of the industry.

Why do we have regional boundaries?

The NPMP was implemented in 2013 with the primary objectives of preventing the spread of Psa and minimising its impact on kiwifruit production. A principle measure of the plan to achieve these objectives was to establish regional boundaries, to reflect differences in disease status between geographic areas and ensure the best disease management approach is taken for that region. To accommodate differences in Psa status of each region the classifications of Exclusion, Containment and Recovery were introduced, each with their own criteria and objectives. The boundaries and status of regions provide a legal foundation for the rest of the plan, by setting the objectives for each

region and enabling application of other measures in relation to these (e.g., movement controls and monitoring requirements).

The categories of region and corresponding objectives of the plan are as follows:

Category	***Secondary plan objectives***
Exclusion regions	1. Ensure that exclusion regions are, and remain, free of Psa-V. 2. Establish, on an on-going basis, that the exclusion regions are free of Psa-V. 3. Enable swift and decisive action to be taken to contain any outbreak of Psa-V in an exclusion region.
Containment regions	4. Limit the further spread of Psa-V into, within, and from containment regions. 5. Reduce, where possible, the distribution of Psa-V within containment regions.
Recovery regions	6. Reduce Psa-V inoculum levels in recovery regions. 7. Reduce the risk of Psa-V spreading from recovery regions to other places. 8. Support the recovery of kiwifruit production in the recovery regions, by minimising overall production losses and enabling the successful establishment of new kiwifruit varieties.

Current state

Five years on, the benefits of implementing the NPMP are apparent as kiwifruit growing regions remain where Psa has not been detected, or in a very limited number of orchards. These Exclusion Regions ("Far North", "Whangarei", and "South Island") must continue to be protected through restricting the movement of risk items, while at the same time recognising the need to develop pathways to provide these growers with access to future new varieties.

In Recovery regions, Psa is now well-established with 94% of all orchards in Recovery regions and 93% of all hectares Psa positive. In the North Island there has been general spread of Psa across many of the growing areas and as such the Recovery regions have grown in number while retaining the original boundaries that were developed under the NPMP. Over time there has been the development of movement processes for pollen and budwood between the existing recovery regions, with the parallel introduction of a risk management approach to nursery-based development and movement of known pest status rootstock plant material.

The rapid growth of the kiwifruit industry with associated requirements for new plant material has resulted in some distribution issues between the current Recovery regions because of the current policy. The removal of the internal Recovery region boundaries will improve this situation without any significant increase in risk of Psa spread.

Risks associated with movement of Psa

While Psa is widespread, KVH has been concerned about new forms of Psa evolving that may be more virulent or tolerant to crop protection products. This concern remains. Nurseries moving rootstock material within the Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS) are required to have end of process testing to provide confidence that they are not moving non-New Zealand biovars of Psa, or forms that are more tolerant to crop protection products. There remains a risk that new forms of Psa with increased virulence that we are unable to test for could be moved with this plant material. However, any such form of Psa could also be spread by wind as it is a wind-borne bacteria.

Therefore, up to this point there has been justification for maintaining a longer term cautionary approach within the existing growing regions.

Significant research efforts have been invested in developing techniques that could remove Psa from budwood and pollen. These efforts have not been successful to date.

Therefore, the current situation is that we have inconsistency in our ability to manage the risk associated with the movement of Psa across different plant material types and are seeking to rectify this situation while effectively managing risk.

Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme

The KPCS was introduced in 2014 and became fully implemented (and mandatory) in October 2016, as a certification scheme to reduce the biosecurity risk associated with the movement of nursery plant material. The KPCS sets a minimum biosecurity standard for all kiwifruit nurseries to operate to, supported with independent monitoring, audits and diagnostic testing. Traceability of plant movements is a core component of the scheme. The KPCS reduces risk of spreading several biosecurity threats across the industry including new and existing forms of Psa which is supported by the legal framework of the NPMP.

Currently there exists certification of nurseries under KPCS as **Fully Certified,** allowing movement of plant material between existing Recovery regional boundaries and **Within Region,** allowing plants to be moved only within the Recovery region that the nursery is located within. Fully certified nurseries are required to demonstrate that they are Psa free and need to have acquired pest and disease-free plant material. Currently Within Region certified nurseries can test positive for Psa and still move plant material within their kiwifruit growing region, provided subsequent tests indicate that it is the common form of Psa-V and no resistant strains are identified. Under this proposal both levels of certified nurseries under KPCS will be able to move stock anywhere within the new single Recovery region.

Future Strategy

The KPCS was introduced for rootstock material only, with the intention of introducing aligned schemes for other plant material (budwood and pollen) as it is recognised that there is currently a need to have similar robust risk management processes for all types of plant material movements. KVH is beginning the process of review of the certification process with a view to establishing this consistent risk management approach, including traceability for all movements. This is fundamental to a biosecurity resilient kiwifruit industry.

In the interim it has been recognised that the current policy of restriction of movements of rootstock material between Recovery regions, where Psa is now well-established, is inequitable from a risk management perspective, given that budwood and pollen are still able to move. However, it should be noted that anyone supplying budwood must register with KVH and provide a Risk Management Plan and follow Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) as part of requirements to supply Zespri and that all pollen mills are required to also register with KVH and provide a Risk Management Plan. Both groups are then subject to KVH audit.

In the longer term KVH aims to develop and present to the industry processes under a pathway regulatory framework that will allow the ongoing management of biosecurity risk to support growers and the wider industry prevent or manage an incursion of any pest or pathogen that could threaten the kiwifruit industry. An important component of this is to have an easy to manage traceability system in place to ensure knowledge is maintained about the risk status and movement of any plant material. This work will be undertaken in parallel with all the proposed changes.

Proposal

It is proposed the regional boundaries that exist within Recovery regions be removed, allowing a similar policy for movement of all plant material within one North Island Recovery region.

Existing policies will remain in place and apply to the wider single Recovery region including the current KPCS requirements, with a view to aligning these once the KPCS review is complete. This is expected to be finished towards the end of 2018.

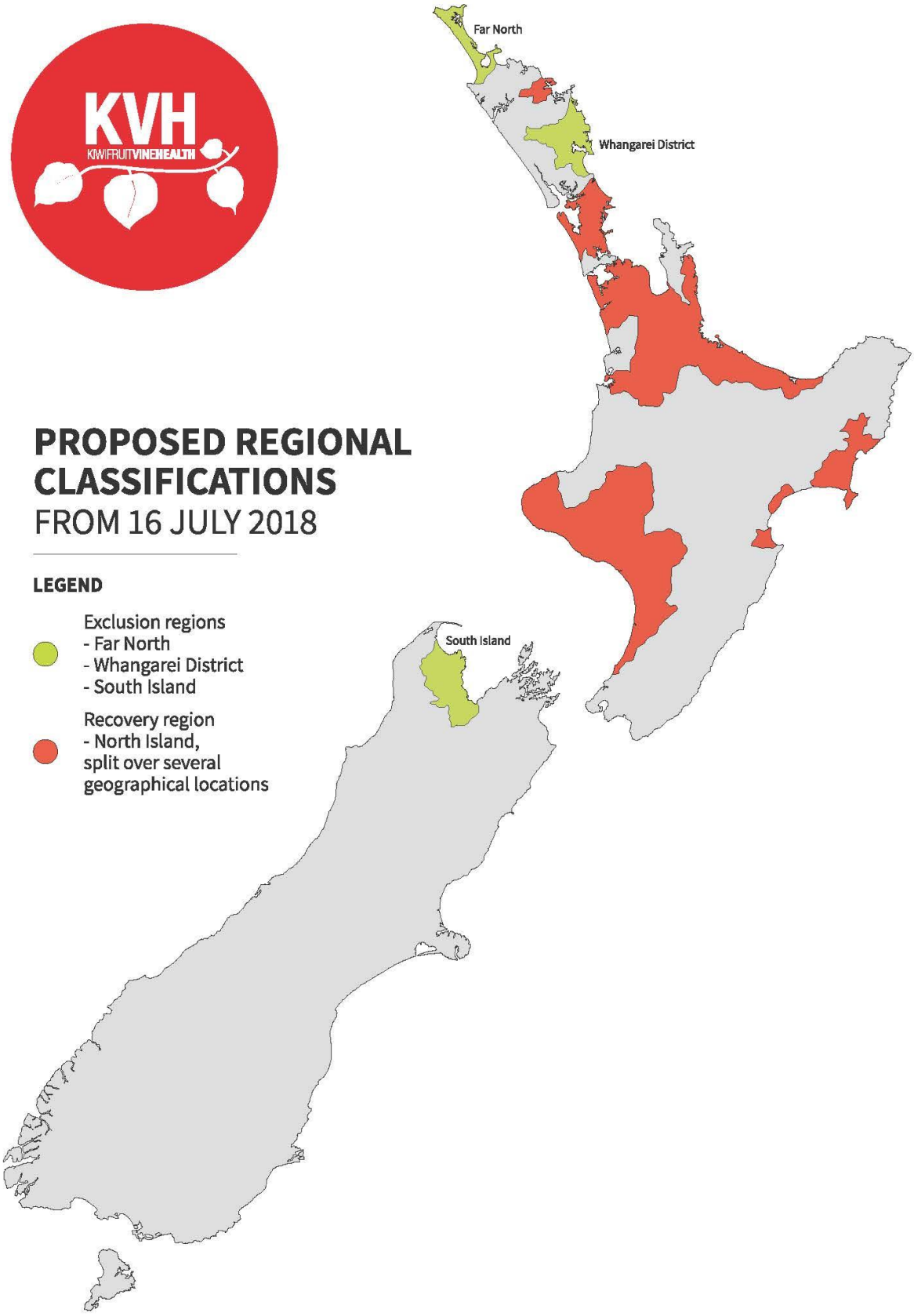
Existing policies that restrict the movement of any plant material between Recovery regions and Containment or Exclusion regions would remain the same.

Timing for proposal

The consultation and submission period is proposed to begin from Thursday 7 June 2018 and run for three weeks until midday Monday 2 July 2018.

Communication with growers and wider industry will be by way of discussion with key industry representatives including the NZKGI forum, via email and Bulletin to growers and at the Mystery Creek Fieldays, also via provision of consultation packs and group meetings where requested. A question and answer sheet and submission form are included with this proposal document.

If the proposal meets with broad acceptance the aim is to time implementation for Monday 16 July 2018. This would allow growers and nurseries to plan for any potential changes in business decisions relating to distribution or planting within this year's planting season.


KVH
KIWIFRUITVINEHEALTH
Far North
Whangarei District
South Island
PROPOSED REGIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS
FROM 16 JULY 2018
LEGEND
Exclusion regions
- Far North
- Whangarei District
- South Island
Recovery region
- North Island, split over several geographical locations

Consultation and Submissions

KVH seeks your feedback. You can use this form to provide feedback using the suggested questions as a guide if you find it helpful. Please forward your feedback to KVH at info@kvh.org.nz or phone us on 0800 665 825.

1. Do you support the revocation of the boundaries within the Recovery regions of New Zealand?

2. Do you support the timing of implementation, should the proposal gain acceptance, from Monday 16 July 2018?

3. Do you believe the proposal will disadvantage you? Why?

4. Do you support the concept of a review of the KPCS scheme to align risk management and movement traceability across all plant material?

5. Do you have any other comments about the proposal?