

Review of biosecurity settings & policy processes



What we were asked to do	<p>We were asked to review the appropriateness of New Zealand's import requirements and border processes relating to the importation of five 'risk goods' as potential vectors of Psa-V (a bacterial canker of kiwifruit), and to make recommendations for improvement.</p>
How we approached the project	<p>The key stages of our review included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying an ideal framework for effectively managing biosecurity risks• Establishing a picture of the risks posed by Psa-V at the time when each of the import requirements had been established (through document review and interviews with scientists)• Environmental scanning to identify how the risk profile of Psa-V had evolved over time, and• Undertaking gap analysis for each of the risk goods: the extent to which the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries had recognised the risks posed by Psa-V, had reacted appropriately to changing circumstances, and had effectively implemented import requirements.
Our findings	<p>We found there were major shortcomings with the relevant import requirements and border processes in place prior to the entry of Psa-V into New Zealand.</p>

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Our findings	<p>The areas of concern were primarily due to the lack of a strategic view of the risk to the kiwifruit industry, a failure to adequately respond to changing circumstances, and the absence of effective working relationships between the Ministry, industry stakeholders, and scientific researchers.</p> <p>Our recommendations were based around six key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examining the relative costs/benefits of reprioritising resources toward managing the risks for economically significant industries• Renewing efforts to centralise the identification and management of emerging biosecurity risks (which often had been dealt with in an ad hoc manner)• Improving the transparency in relation to the initial importation of organic matter into New Zealand• A number of specific steps for improving border processes for risk goods• Improving the Ministry's connectedness with industry and research organisations, and• Establishing a research fund that could be used to commission targeted research on areas of biosecurity uncertainty.
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