

SUMMARY OF OANZ MEETING (April 24th) via zoom

Bill was introduced by Bryce Wigodsky (MPI)

They are well aware the Bill is not in its final form and welcomes involvement from all parties concerned.

Organic Products Bill has three tiers

1st tier – Organic Products Bill, the Act which is difficult to change once in force

2nd tier- Regulations

3rd tier-National Organic Standards

Tier 2 and 3 can be altered and added to in the future

Question One/Two

No Definition of organic or statement of principles underlying the Bill

Reply: It is difficult to include a definition that is indisputable by science and law. It was suggested to use IFOAM's definition that has been contested and successfully acknowledged

“organic” if it meets the standards

“standards” have not been developed yet – MPI wanting stake holders input

Question Three

The Bill is different to international models because all countries require different regulations –NZ needs NZ regulations. NZ has the RMP, Wine Act, Animal Welfare Act etc that incorporate many legislations already in law.

This Bill is needed to facilitate Govt to Govt (Refer clause 12 sub 2)

A technical advisory board would incorporate a higher levy- MPI would like key stakeholders to contribute instead.

Question Four

Where do participatory guarantee schemes (PGS) fit onto legislation?

Justine Hobbs is in charge of Regulations – The Bill and Regulations work together

PGS refer Clause 11 & 12

Clause 107 is the regulation making power in the Bill

Feedback is wanted in this area

Question Five

Licensee and certification still the same – no change

Question Six

Levies – Clause 110 Payment to be approved and to cover negotiating markets

Pg 38 for more information

Question Seven

Regulations are fundamental to provide confidence to the consumer and provide certainty in investment

Not appropriate to promote one sector over another, organic/conventional – Commodity Levies Act

Bill will regulate the word ‘organic’

Single verifier can be certifier

There was a general discussion about the Technical Advisory Board Structure and its cost. There was concern about the cost structure and how it will affect the domestic market. The Bill possibly named Organic Production Bill not Products Bill

MPI want the cost of Technical Advisory Board to be passed on to the consumer, but organic growers want their products available to all at a less expensive price

We need to be seen as strong guardians and be unity in a plan ahead.

The subject of legal aid was discussed and while not so useful at the committee stage, future use could be valuable

Next steps: Tech committee to draft a submission and submit to the group for discussion

Strategy- use committee to propose the changes required

- Obtain greater security by being heard
- Part of strategy is lobbying