

**BEFORE THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS  
AT CHRISTCHURCH**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991  
 (“**the Act**”)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991  
and the Environment Canterbury  
(Temporary Commissioners and  
Improved Water Management) Act 2010

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Proposed Canterbury Air Regional  
Plan

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE BY MATTHEW JOSEPH DOLAN  
FOR HORTICULTURE NEW ZEALAND**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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## 1. SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1.1 In this statement of evidence I provide information to support the submissions and further submissions made by Horticulture NZ in relation to discharges of Agrichemicals.
- 1.2 It is the position of Horticulture NZ (which I strongly support) that references to GROWSAFE® and the New Zealand Standard Management of Agrichemicals (NZS8409:2004) ought to be included in the Plan.

## 2. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 2.1 My name is Matthew Joseph Dolan, I have a Bachelor of Horticultural Science from Lincoln University and over 20 years experience in the horticulture industry, both in New Zealand and overseas.
- 2.2 My career has largely been in technical roles including the management of industry quality assurance and Good Agricultural Practice (“**GAP**”) programmes.
- 2.3 I am currently the Business Manager for Horticulture New Zealand responsible for the Food Safety and Environment (agrichemicals) portfolio. I have been in this role for 5 years.
- 2.4 I manage 2 business units in this portfolio: New Zealand GAP ([www.newzealandgap.co.nz](http://www.newzealandgap.co.nz)) and The New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust ([www.growsafe.co.nz](http://www.growsafe.co.nz))
- 2.5 I am providing this evidence in relation to the submissions by Horticulture NZ that support the inclusion of the references to the New Zealand Standard Management of Agrichemicals (NZS8409:2004) and GROWSAFE®.
- 2.6 Evidence on this matter has also been provided by Ms Lynette Wharfe.

## 3. HORTICULTURE NZ AND GROWSAFE®

- 3.1 GROWSAFE® is the brand of the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust (“**NZAET**”), a non-profit

organisation that promotes the safe, responsible and effective use of agrichemicals.

- 3.2 The NZAET was formed in 1992 by the primary producer groups and aims to develop and maintain good practice standards of agrichemical use. The Trust's Mission Statement is:

*'To facilitate the approved and safe use of agrichemicals in NZ consistent with effective sustainable land management and environmental protection through advocacy and education.'*

- 3.3 NZAET is an independent body that facilitates industry led agrichemical training in New Zealand. It undertakes the following functions in order to achieve this:

- a) governance, leadership and oversight to maintain consensus on standards, promote the core principles, encourage participation and sustain the linkages between industry and regulators;
- b) design the training scheme to ensure on-going relevance accessibility and recognition, including procedures for the renewal of certification;
- c) administration of the scheme, including promotion, documentation, certification, and database management;
- d) recruitment, development and registration of agrichemical trainers;
- e) maintenance of consistency, quality and objectivity of training and assessment processes;
- f) monitoring the on-going performance of the scheme;
- g) collection of fees and financial administration.

- 3.4 GROWSAFE® is not a training provider and does not deliver courses itself but provides an assurance on the quality of training. GROWSAFE® accredits specialist trainers and training organisations to deliver courses. GROWSAFE® regularly reviews and appraises trainers to ensure ongoing quality. Trainers operate in a

competitive market, setting their own fees and training schedules. Some trainers are independent and others some deliver through polytechnics or PTEs. Accredited trainers run courses throughout New Zealand.

- 3.5 GROWSAFE® training covers the knowledge and practices required for safe, responsible and effective use of agrichemicals, based on the Industry Standard NZS8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals.
- 3.6 Specifically, the courses cover a range of practical and technical skills, which require training to understand and master. These contribute to the effective management of agrichemicals from an environmental perspective, including:
- a) Awareness of the current techniques and technologies to control the placement of agrichemicals precisely and effectively to target crops, while avoiding drift onto non target crops, or sensitive species and areas.
  - b) Systematic assessment of the risks of agrichemical use in different situations, and how to respond when conditions change and how to react to problems.
  - c) Notifying and recording agrichemical applications.
  - d) Legislation and responsibilities that apply to agrichemical users.
- 3.7 It is the view of the NZAET that all agrichemical users have a responsibility to demonstrate that they understand their obligations and best practice for the use of agrichemical products.
- 3.8 The GROWSAFE® certificates that are issued after completion of a GROWSAFE® course provides credible evidence that the certificate holder has the skills and knowledge to use agrichemicals correctly.
- 3.9 GROWSAFE® certification provides an assurance to Regional Councils that covers all agrichemical products and all agrichemical users. On the other hand, Approved Handler covers only agrichemicals that are tracked substances. It therefore covers only

a portion of agrichemicals and excludes important products, such as glyphosate.

- 3.10 Approved Handler is not intended for all agrichemical users. It covers only the person in charge of products that are classified as hazardous.
- 3.11 Renewal of GROWSAFE® (every 5 years) covers the use of agrichemicals and requires a training & assessment event. On the other hand, renewal of Approved Handler requires confirmation of knowledge of changes in the HSNO legislation. The competency of the user in the use of agrichemicals is not reassessed.
- 3.12 The low level of training and assessment required for Approved Handler certification does not equip the agrichemical user with adequate knowledge and skills to deal with the complexity and inherent risk of agrichemical use.

#### **4. CONCLUDING COMMENTS**

- 4.1 As with a number of other primary industry sectors Horticulture NZ is a strong supporter and promoter of GROWSAFE® as it results in best practice agrichemical management for the benefit of both people and communities and the environment.
- 4.2 A clear statement about which agrichemical training programme is accepted by the Council is needed to address the confusion that exists among agrichemical users about which scheme is accepted and to encourage participation in that scheme.
- 4.3 This support would provide the scheme owner with a mandate to operate and confidence to implement and enhance their scheme.

**Matthew Dolan**

**18 September 2015**