Plant Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) in New Zealand:
Working with industry to develop new regulations

Richard Lardner
The New Zealand biosecurity system

A layered defence
New Zealand’s biosecurity system is made up of three broad areas of activity: pre-border, at the border and post-border.
The nursery stock pathway
Risk based standard

- Level 3B Greenhouse: HEPA filtration, Negative air pressure
- Level 3A Greenhouse: 0.2 mm insect mesh
- Level 2 Greenhouse: 0.6 mm insect mesh
- Level 1 Open Field: Minimum isolation distances from other plant material
Risk based standard

- Blueberry tissue culture - *Botryosphaeria corticis*
  - Low likelihood of entry
  - Spores unlikely to be produced in quarantine
  - Bi-weekly plant health inspections
  - No overhead irrigation
- Highly unlikely to escape from a Level 3A greenhouse
Getting the message across
Feedback – some was good

• “Well written, clear and easily understood”
• “Provides a good balance between risk management and practicality”
• “Efforts to explain the changes are much appreciated”
• “Commend those involved at MPI in their ability to listen to industry”
Feedback – some was not so good

- “What mindless moron put together all the rules and regs”
- “The height of ignorance, classic MPI”
- “This has not been thought through and needs urgent attention”
- “Why do you pricks invent these obtuse, bureaucratic systems to alienate and frustrate people?”
What went well

• Most stakeholders agreed that the new standard is better
• Good balance between managing risk and practical outcomes
• Better trained operators with better understanding of biosecurity requirements
What could have gone better
Questions