



Horticulture[™]
New Zealand
Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa

Annual Report

TO 31 MARCH 2025



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Chair and Chief Executive Message

If there's one word that sums up the past year in New Zealand horticulture, it's resilience.

Resilience in the way growers have worked tirelessly to recover -- successfully -- from the devastation brought by Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. Resilience as yet another region, Nelson-Tasman and its growers are being hit by flooding.

Resilience in the face of rising costs, legislative reform, biosecurity threats such as the Oriental fruit fly and unpredictable weather events.

For growers, this resilience is grounded in a strong connection to place, a commitment to growing, and a practical approach to tackling even the toughest challenges.

This year has brought change at HortNZ too, with the two of us stepping into new roles, chair and chief executive.

It's been a real privilege for us to meet growers around the country and see first-hand the ambition, innovation and commitment across the sector.

The passion of our growers is the lifeblood of this sector, and at HortNZ, we are proud to stand alongside every business, small and large.

We are a small but highly committed team, focused on representing growers on the issues that are common to all growers -- climate change, land use, access to inputs, and workforce development, just to name a few.

As we look ahead, horticulture is well positioned to play a pivotal role in New Zealand's future.

The latest Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries (SOPI) Report from the Ministry for Primary Industries, projects horticulture revenue to increase by 19 percent in the year to 30 June 2025, reaching \$8.5 billion.

The Government's target to double export earnings over the next decade closely aligns with our sector's goal to double farmgate value by 2035. Achieving that will require collective effort, a united voice, and a relentless focus on innovation.

Growers reaffirmed their support for HortNZ through the levy vote, with a new levy order taking effect from 1 April. We're grateful for the trust growers have placed in us and we are committed to delivering on it.

Our key priorities remain clear:

- Water security and supply
- Reliable access to healthy, locally grown fruit and vegetables for New Zealanders
- Access to crop protection tools
- Practical and credible assurance systems
- Education and training that aligns with industry needs
- Certainty for Pacific workers and other valued employees

The first delivery phase of the Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan (AHAP) Implementation Roadmap has been rolled out.

Developed through collaboration between industry, government, Māori, and research partners, phase one prioritises foundational actions, sustainable growth, and a future-fit sector.

Key initiatives include workforce development, Māori participation, R&D, value chain optimisation, and building public awareness.

With over 530 supporting initiatives already underway or planned, this roadmap sets a clear path forward.

Further phases will follow, ensuring progress across all 56 outcomes and 76 actions in the plan.

Another important outcome this year has been the strengthening of industry relationships through initiatives like the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) partnership.

This has played an important role in building trust and collaboration between growers, HortNZ and local partners.



The work has supported best land management practices and environmental restoration, including fencing and native planting.

These types of partnerships demonstrate how sector-wide collaboration can deliver both environmental and commercial resilience -- outcomes that will underpin future freshwater and sustainability efforts.

In August, we launched the Taste the Yakka campaign to shine a spotlight on the hard work and dedication behind New Zealand-grown fruit and vegetables. The campaign included a digital video experience showcasing the sensory appeal of locally grown produce and the pride behind every harvest and, a campaign to get New Zealanders submitting their support for vegetable growing.

Throughout the year, we've advocated strongly on behalf of growers, meeting with Ministers and officials, and making a series of submissions to government on critical issues. We've supported growers behind the scenes as weather events have hit across the country - no glory, just pragmatism on the ground and in the paperwork.

We welcomed the Government's decision to pause implementation of the freshwater plan requirements, and we continue to strongly advocate for horticulture's inclusion in the next Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2).

In a big win for the sector, the Government announced major resource management proposals including recognising the national importance of vegetables and enabling water storage and managed aquifer recharge.

The Government's policy aims to support New Zealanders' access to locally grown fresh produce by offering some relief for commercial vegetable growers who have been living with uncertainty and unworkable rules, allowing them to continue providing the healthy food we all need.

The Government's proposed changes to freshwater rules would provide for crop rotation and signals a future without resource consents for commercial vegetable growing.

Proposals to reduce the consenting burden for water storage and managed aquifer recharge have also been welcomed by growers, who rely on the reliable and efficient use of water for horticultural production. Water storage will help us meet our industry's target to double export value.

Water storage also supports increased climate resilience as growing regions face longer and more frequent drought conditions. Water storage allows growers to hold onto water when there's more than enough in the rainy parts of the year to use later when the weather is dry.

The changes to the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land aim to balance our country's ability to grow food with our need for housing.

To make the most productive use of New Zealand's best soils, HortNZ stresses that the enablers are necessary if we are to continue producing high-value, low-emissions food production in the areas that are best suited to feed New Zealand and the world.

HortNZ believes that decisions about the use of highly productive land must go beyond just assessing its economic value. The policy framework should also consider the land's suitability for growing food, including access to water, favourable climate conditions and infrastructure.

These factors are critical to ensuring long-term domestic food security and resilience, particularly in the face of climate change.

Simply valuing land by its current or potential sale price risks undermining the strategic importance of land that is irreplaceable for horticultural production.

It was encouraging to see several positive changes to the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme, including allowing temporary accommodation cost increases and flexible averaging of work hours. But there is still much to do to ensure stability in RSE policy settings to make them fit for purpose for growers and the Pacific.

We supported the Ministry for Regulation's review of the complex and costly approval processes for new agricultural and horticultural products under the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS).

There are excessive delays and high costs of obtaining regulatory approval, with a significant backlog at the EPA that could take 2-4 years to clear.

HortNZ has been concerned for some time that the reassessment approaches by the EPA and NZFS are reducing growers' options for managing risks.

Ironically, regulatory delays are blocking access to more sustainable, environmentally friendly products, despite growers' efforts to reduce agricultural use.

While tackling today's challenges, we're also investing in the future. Promoting horticulture as a dynamic career remains a core focus. We've continued to support and improve the Young Grower of the Year

competition, which showcased the emerging talent across our sector.

We also awarded one postgraduate scholarship, worth \$10,000, to a student researching critical challenges facing our industry.

After pausing in 2023 to complete a comprehensive review, the HortNZ Leadership Programme was relaunched and piloted in 2024 with renewed vigor. Focused on developing personal leadership plans and building sector capability we saw 18 leaders graduate in 2024 and look forward to similar numbers graduating in 2025 – part of our commitment to nurturing people.

Our 2024 annual conference in Tauranga was well attended and energising. This year's conference in Wellington promises to continue the momentum.

In closing, we want to thank those who have given so much to the industry and to HortNZ.

Barry O'Neil, one of our retiring directors and former Chair, has shown dedication and commitment over many years.

Hugh Ritchie also retiring and Kathryn de Bruin who is stepping down from the Board, your service to the sector is appreciated.

And to Nadine Tunley, who served as CEO during some very challenging times for our sector -- thank you for your tireless leadership.

And finally, to our growers. Thank you for your resilience, your expertise, your passion -- and for giving us the space to help shape the future of New Zealand horticulture.



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Bernadine Guilleux
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Kate Scott
Chief Executive

 **\$4.89bn^{\$}**

farmgate value

 **\$2.55bn^{*#}**

domestic horticulture spend

 **\$7.54bn^{*#}**

value of the horticulture industry value chain

 **4,300+**

commercial fruit and vegetable growers in New Zealand

 **\$4.99bn^{*#}**

horticulture export revenue

 **125**

export markets around the world

Snapshot of commercial fruit and vegetable growing in New Zealand

 **80,000**

hectares of horticulture land in New Zealand (approx)

 **3,300[^]**

operators using NZGAP and/or GLOBALG.A.P. assurance programmes

 **100+**

types of fruit and vegetables grown in New Zealand

 **100%**

of fruit and vegetable exports are certified through an assurance programme

 **40,000+**

people employed

 **>90%**

of domestic fruit and vegetables are certified through an assurance programme

Sources: Ministry for Primary Industries, Fresh Facts, Food and Fibre Workforce Insights www.workforceinsights.govt.nz, Statistics New Zealand Household Economic Survey 2023, HortNZ, NZGAP.

* Includes fresh and processed products.

The data captures the wider horticulture sector, rather than just those crops affiliated with HortNZ.

§ Calculated based on the HortNZ levy 2025 - covering crops subject to the Commodity Levies (Vegetable and Fruit) Order.

^ Some growers are certified together via one operator's management system.

HortNZ Priority Areas

We advocate strongly for all growers -- regardless of size, growing system, or crop. As a focused and agile organisation, we're dedicated to helping growers thrive. Our work is targeted and effective, delivering impact across five key areas where we can make the greatest difference.

Shaping Sector Strategy

HortNZ ensures there is a collective long-term vision for horticulture and an effective structure to deliver on strategic initiatives.

Measure: HortNZ participated in 18 pan-sector working or governance groups.

Regular engagement between HortNZ, product groups, Members of Parliament, and key government agencies – in particular the Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (including Immigration New Zealand), the Ministry for the Environment, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade -- plays a vital role in strengthening our advocacy and ability to represent the horticulture sector as a whole.

In 2024/25, HortNZ participated in a number of pan-primary sector groups focused on biosecurity, food safety, crop protection, adverse events, and cross-sector leadership. Through this collaboration, we continue to build strong alliances across the food and fibre system.

These relationships have become essential for:

- Delivering consistent, credible messages to government
- Advancing shared goals across the primary sector
- Influencing regulatory and policy change, and
- Protecting hard-won gains when they come under pressure.

In addition to contributing to government working groups and pan-sector initiatives, HortNZ is facilitating a coordinated approach to implementing projects aligned with our strategic priorities through the Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan.





New Zealand Good Agriculture Practice (NZGAP)

HortNZ is the owner of the NZGAP scheme. NZGAP is governed by a sub-committee of the HortNZ Board but is managed and funded independently. See the NZGAP annual activity report for more information.

www.nzgap.co.nz

Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan (AHAP) - from aspiration to implementation

Launched in 2023, the Growing Together 2025 Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan aims to double the farmgate value of horticultural production by 2035 in a way that improves prosperity for our people and protects our environment. The plan creates efficiencies by allowing partners to align efforts and investment towards common actions.

A governance group and structure has been set up to provide strategic oversight for the AHAP and its delivery. The six-person governance group is well connected with stakeholders across science, Māori, government and industry. Over the next year they will champion the AHAP, guide delivery and help to remove any roadblocks that may hinder AHAP progress.

The AHAP is now entering the first delivery phase, informed by analysis undertaken during the implementation planning phase.

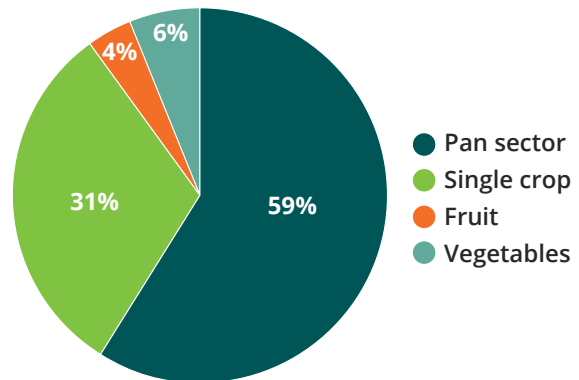
Analysis included:

- Completing a stocktake -- collating the work underway across government, science, Māori and industry that supports AHAP priorities to ensure effort is not duplicated.
- Generating a gap analysis -- highlighting parts of the plan where activity has been limited to date, allowing areas of most need and potential for impact to be identified.

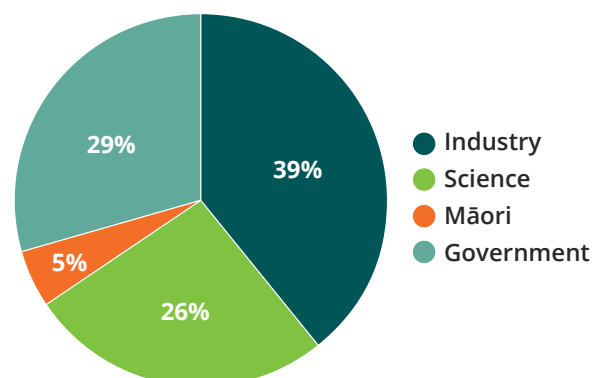
Insights from the stocktake and gap analysis

- a. Significant efforts are already underway: 530+ discrete initiatives (complete, underway or planned), 130+ entities.
- b. Collaboration is common.
- c. Gaps are spread across the quad partnership: gaps were identified across all five pillars.

Spread of efforts to date that apply pan sector, to fruit or vegetables, or just one crop



Proportion of stocktake initiatives driven by each quad partner, in almost all instances working with other collaborators



Delivery

A collaborative programme team spanning industry, government and science have delivered:

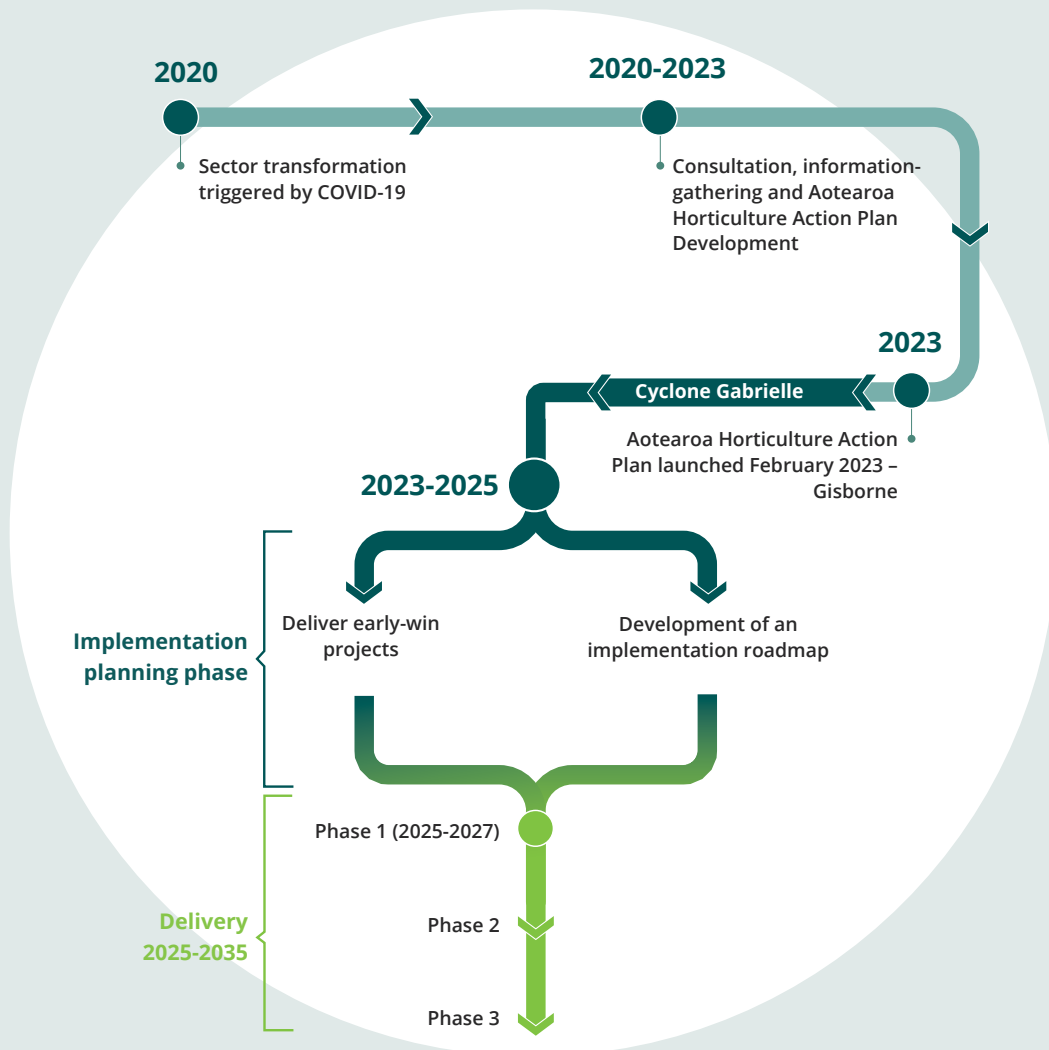
- The first progress update
- An evaluation framework - a set of indicators to help the sector to understand the direction of travel and, ultimately, whether horticulture is making progress towards the AHAP's goal.
- 40+ stakeholder engagement activities (audience of 450+, spanning science, government, industry and Māori)
- Four additional early win projects.

Given the large size and wide scope of the plan, a phased approach to delivery is necessary. An implementation roadmap to set out the priorities for Phase One (2025-2027) has been developed.

It will serve as a challenge to all quad partners who are focused on contributing to help horticulture achieve sustainable sector growth.



The AHAP was developed collectively with input from industry, government, Māori and research providers. It belongs to everyone involved in the New Zealand horticulture sector. Success in achieving the goal requires everyone to contribute and collaborate.



Proactively Influencing Policy

HortNZ seeks the best operating conditions for horticulture in the areas of environment, biosecurity, food safety, crop protection and labour.

Measure: HortNZ lodged 49 submissions.

Environment policy

Enabling food supply – resource management reform

A focus of our resource management advocacy has been on seeking national direction for commercial vegetable growing. The purpose of the national direction is to enabling vegetable growing in recognition of the importance of producing vegetables for domestic supply. HortNZ has raised this issue directly through the development of a policy think piece, and through submission on the Resource Management Act (RMA) Amendment Bills, and early consultation on the Resource Management Reform and National Direction for Freshwater.

Climate change, biodiversity and freshwater

HortNZ endorses a second National determined contribution, aligned with EU trade obligations and climate commitments, emphasising that the horticulture sector is low-emission activity and can further decarbonise through supply chain efforts. It advocates for policies enabling land use change to horticulture as part of New Zealand's climate transition, highlighting the importance of market access, land and water resources. The submission stresses prioritising domestic decarbonisation over offshore mitigation, recognising its economic and food security benefits, and calls for integrating land use change opportunities into existing planning frameworks like the ERP and RMA.

In our submission on the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) we supported maintaining current price controls for price certainty but urges for funding or low-interest loans to facilitate greenhouse sector decarbonisation, underscoring its importance for climate resilience and food security.

Land use and highly productive land

HortNZ has actively advised on the integration of growers' perspectives into regional development and land-use planning strategies across New Zealand. In Hastings-Napier, they oppose greenfield development on the Heretaunga Plains without adequate mapping of highly productive land, advocating instead for hillside development to preserve valuable agricultural resources and addressing water security concerns. In Whangarei, they support focusing growth within existing urban centres but emphasise the importance of recognising rural needs, protecting highly productive land for primary production, and enabling climate adaptation. Similarly, in Auckland, HortNZ urges the inclusion of rural and agricultural land considerations to safeguard the viability of primary industries amid urban expansion. Furthermore, in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, they highlight the region's excellent climate and soils for horticulture, stressing the need for careful spatial planning to balance housing growth with food production.



They emphasise that housing and food production are not mutually exclusive; instead, managing the urban-rural interface to prevent reverse sensitivity conflicts is crucial to maintaining prime agricultural land, supporting local food security, and enhancing export earnings.

Regional and District Plan hearings

HortNZ has been active in Regional and District Plan hearings, participating in the Environment Court processes for water plans in Hawke's Bay and Waikato, and participating in district plan hearings in Selwyn, Timaru, Waimakariri, Napier and the Far North.

Business, labour and commercial policy

Over the past year, HortNZ has maintained a strong focus on immigration, business and commercial policy issues that directly impact the viability and resilience of the horticulture sector. By fostering constructive relationships with key government agencies and ministers, HortNZ has been able to influence decision-making processes and ensure the needs of growers are well understood in the development of new policy settings.

In addition to direct advocacy, HortNZ has played a leadership role in convening industry working groups and coordinating cross-sector feedback on complex regulatory changes. This collaborative approach has strengthened the industry's voice in public consultations and enabled the development of evidence-based, practical policy responses.

Workforce and immigration policy

HortNZ provided submissions on the proposed Global Workforce Seasonal Visa and Surge Capacity Seasonal Visa, supporting mechanisms that improve access to a reliable and flexible seasonal workforce. We also submitted on the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) settings, advocating for practical changes to employer accreditation processes, job check requirements, and the balance between labour market tests and industry demand. These submissions stressed the need for visa settings that reflect the unique challenges and seasonality of horticulture.

Health and safety reform and ACC levies

In response to the Government's proposals for Health and Safety Regulatory Reform and the ACC Levy Consultation, HortNZ advocated for better alignment between regulatory requirements and the reality of working in horticulture. We highlighted the need for risk-based and proportionate health and safety rules, as well as fair ACC levy structures that recognise the sector's investment in safety systems and training.

Grocery sector reform

HortNZ actively engaged in the Commerce Commission's review of the Grocery Code of Conduct and the Draft Grocery Supply Code. We welcomed improvements to supplier protections, including stronger requirements for good faith, transparency, and fair payment practices.

However, our submissions raised critical concerns regarding the mandated use of specific crate and pallet systems by major retailers — a practice that imposes significant logistical and financial burdens on growers. This advocacy has helped bring national attention to long-standing supply chain imbalances that impact fresh produce suppliers and highlights the need for greater regulatory clarity and fairness.

Access to banking services

In our submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Banking Competition, HortNZ raised concerns about the challenges many growers face in accessing capital and banking services. We advocated for greater transparency in lending criteria, recognition of land-based value creation, and a more competitive and inclusive rural banking sector.





Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme

HortNZ continues to work closely with our Pacific partners and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to maintain strong connections and open, transparent conversations.

The Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme's 'triple win' objectives are supporting workers, employers and Pacific nations.

At the heart of the scheme is reciprocity. Building and maintaining trust between New Zealand agencies and Pacific nations is essential -- not only for the economic outcomes, but for the social and cultural wellbeing of workers, their families, and communities.

HortNZ remains committed to supporting a scheme that is fair, future-focused, and delivers lasting value for all involved.

RSE scheme policy

In quarter three 2024, the Government announced a range of policy changes to the RSE scheme including temporarily lifting the pause on accommodation cost increases and a cap increase, allowing employers to average out RSE workers' minimum 30 hours per week over four weeks and adjusting the application of the 10% above the minimum wage requirement.

HortNZ had been advocating for these RSE policy changes for some time to enable certainty for growers.

The RSE scheme has served New Zealand growers and the Pacific well since 2007 and helped boost the economies of Pacific countries thanks to the repatriation of wages.

The changes implemented by the Government show they understand the challenges growers in the RSE scheme face. These adjustments will ease the pressure, but there is more to do.

HortNZ also welcomed other changes to the RSE scheme including multiple entry visas allowing RSE workers to undertake training and skills development not directly related to their role.

HortNZ continues to work with the Government on policy around RSE workers to support growers' ability to harvest fruit and vegetables and strengthen our relations with the Pacific.

At the time of writing, the complete RSE policy review has yet to be concluded and HortNZ is continuing to strongly advocate for this to be wrapped up as a matter of urgency.

Whānau Moana Nui Family of the Pacific

The two-year pilot *Whānau Moana Nui™* was launched 2024 at the RSE Conference.

HortNZ has been working closely with employers, the four Pacific countries and industry product groups in co-developing and co-designing the *Whānau Moana Nui™* framework.

Whānau Moana Nui™, an industry led programme that will complement the RSE scheme, has an emphasis on impactful partnership, economic opportunities through the spirit of collaboration and reciprocity, and innovative solutions that empower mutual benefit and sustainable growth.

Risk policy

HortNZ have been advocating for horticulture across multiple portfolios over the last 12 months. Notable areas of negotiation are as follows:

Biosecurity

HortNZ has continued to work to ensure that the biosecurity risks associated with imported goods are managed appropriately. HortNZ has been a member of several strategic groups focused on improving New Zealand's biosecurity system, including the Biosecurity System Strategy Working Group. At the regulatory level, HortNZ has participated in numerous Import Health Standard workshop meetings and lodged 15 submissions about changes to standards. While some submissions supported the suggested changes, others questioned the robustness and fairness of the proposals from a horticulture perspective. As an example, the unintended consequences of the dramatic increases in MPI's post-entry quarantine service charges were highlighted, particularly the potential that this could prevent smaller horticulture sectors from being able to afford to import germplasm. HortNZ also continues to take a pan-sector view into Government-Industry-Agreement work programmes at the operational agreement and governance levels.

Crop protection tools

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is currently reassessing the safety of several crop protection tools. Earlier this year, HortNZ coordinated the submission of a large amount of information to EPA highlighting the criticality of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides to growers, particularly vegetable growers. As part of this submission, HortNZ also commissioned an independent expert review of EPA's risk modelling work, which highlighted issues with the tools the agency is using and the limited expertise they currently have in this important area. HortNZ continue to work with EPA and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) group within New Zealand Food Safety, MPI, requesting that their processes and decision making ultimately enable growers to have access to the most effective and safest tools.

Food safety

HortNZ have also been involved in ongoing engagement with New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) to promote greater recognition by MPI of Good Agricultural Practice food safety and assurance schemes for both the domestic and exports markets. Two recent events have brought this issue into greater focus. One is the Food Safety Importations team recognising that private assurance schemes accredited by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) offer sufficient assurance for the importation of a high-risk food (frozen berries). Both NZGAP and GlobalG.A.P. are GFSI accredited. Secondly, with the announcement that NZFS will go ahead and introduce a new Food Business Levy, HortNZ will continue to advocate that levy revenue sourced from growers is spent on improving food safety outcomes for growers.

Genetic engineering regulations

Another area of activity for HortNZ Risk Policy, is the incoming government's wish to rapidly liberalise the existing regulations regarding the use of genetic engineering techniques within New Zealand. HortNZ has been engaging with the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment as they review the existing systems here and overseas. A Bill is expected to go before the House of Representatives before the end of 2024.



Translating Sector Wide Change

HortNZ ensures growers and rural professionals are aware of newly implemented policy, regulations and requirements.

Measure: HortNZ hosted three horticultural industry forum events presenting on a range of topics of interest for the sector. In addition, five Growing Change workshops were held.

HortNZ facilitated numerous grower extension activities through key projects - A Lighter Touch, Growing Change, Te Tautara o Pukekohe Trust – Integrated Catchment Management and the AHAP Regional Representative pilot.

A Lighter Touch

The A Lighter Touch programme is an industry and government partnership supporting New Zealand growers to move to producing plant-based foods with a lighter environmental touch.

It works with the horticulture, arable and viticulture sectors to help growers move from agrichemical reliance to agroecological crop protection -- sustainable farming that works with nature.

HortNZ holds the contract for this \$27 million seven-year programme, which is funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), and a partnership of 13 plant product groups, two crop protection companies and a farm supplier merchant partner.

Now entering the final two years of the programme, it has more than 35 projects either complete or underway seeking new crop protection tools and technologies to manage pests and diseases.

Demonstrating the practical application of these tools on-farm and orchard is a key aspect of the programme, along with supporting product groups in providing resources and extension activities to drive adoption by growers.

Projects nearing completion include the revitalisation of integrated pest management (IPM) crop protection practices in greenhouse tomatoes, with all large growers now using biologically-based pest control strategies, compared to 50% before the project started. These growers represent more than 80% of production volume.

New technologies being trialled include ultraviolet light technology, which is being evaluated in viticulture and summerfruit with the aim of reducing dependency on agrichemicals for disease control.

Biodiversity projects in vegetable and fruit crops are growing knowledge and understanding of the use of conservation biocontrol, by increasing plant biodiversity to boost existing beneficials.

Both of these projects have shown reduced insecticide applications as a result of increased beneficial populations supporting pest management.



Vegetables NZ and Foundation for Arable Research IPM field day at the Pukekohe research and demonstration farm.



Growers at the Zespri Passionvine hopper IPM field day

Te Tautara o Pukekohe Trust - Integrated Catchment Management Project (ICMP)

The Te Tautara o Pukekohe Trust (TToP) is a partnership between the Crown, industry groups, and mana whenua.

TToP is administering a \$5.65m grant from the Essential Freshwater Fund to oversee 11 priority projects from Te Ora o te Wai Pukekohe Action plan, delivered as an Integrated Catchment Management Project.

Of the 11 funded projects, four have come from the horticulture sector, acknowledging Pukekohe's importance as a key vegetable production area. HortNZ administers the project funding to the following:

- **Te Ahikawariki: Vegetable Industry Centre of Excellence (VICE)**

This is a research and demonstration farm that brings together growers, product groups, HortNZ and mana whenua partners to address gaps in the vegetable sector. The project aims to enable and accelerate research and adoption of best practices, to allow for better environmental and growing outcomes.

- **Crop stacking**

This project is exploring and validating a process of planting a grass cover crop alongside cash crops, to improve soil health and prevent nutrient and sediment loss. If results are successful, and crop quality and yields match conventional crops, the pilot suggests potential for a 30% reduction in nitrogen loss.



Field day at A S Wilcox in Pukekawa demonstrating the crop stacking project

- **Sediment management**

This project aims to reduce sediment runoff into waterways in the Whangamaire catchment through the installation of retention ponds. The work is supported by Auckland Council Freshwater

Management Tool. By the end of the project, there will be 40 ponds installed, covering 150 hectares of catchment area.

- **Nitrogen decision support tool extension**

This project aims to facilitate the adoption of the SVS (Sustainable Vegetable Systems) tool, an innovative nitrogen budgeting tool that was developed with funding from MPI for use across the horticulture sector.

This project involves a series of workshops with a group of agronomists to refine and develop the tool, who then work with growers one-to-one to implement the tool and gather feedback on functionality. So far, the project has engaged with 25 growers, through 11 agronomists.

While the funding period was initially July 2024 - June 2025, a series of delays have meant projects were unable to commence until November 2024. As such, many of the benefits and impacts are only just beginning to emerge, and an extension is being negotiated with the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

AHAP Regional Representative pilot

In 2024, the HortNZ board allocated levy funds to a two-year pilot project, employing four regional representatives. These representatives cover the following regions:

- Northland/Pukekohe/Waikato
- Tairāwhiti Gisborne
- Upper South Island Nelson-Tasman and Lower North Island (Wairarapa/Tararua/Horowhenua)
- Central Otago/Canterbury

Aligned with the AHAP, these roles bring a regional lens to serving growers, ensuring New Zealand's 4,500+ growers have access to essential industry information, updates, and initiatives. They also serve as key contact points for growers to provide feedback, fostering stronger collaboration across the horticulture sector.

The regional representatives facilitate local meetings, information sessions, and workshops, providing updates on regional and national programmes, extension activities, and training opportunities. Over 1,000 growers have engaged across the pilot regions, with representatives addressing local priorities and opportunities through a grower-centric, regional approach.

A prime example is the initiative in the Horowhenua region. This proximity allows for the "cross-pollination field trip," where government regulators and decision makers visit growers and experience the growing process firsthand so they can better understand the sector's needs.



Growing Change

The Growing Change project has developed and launched a new micro-credential “*Assess and manage risks to freshwater from horticultural production*”, which is a new opportunity for growers, staff, horticulture advisors, and council staff. The aim is to enrol up to 150 in the first intake.

Five of the ten catchment regions supported through this project have now closed: Waimea, Manawatu/Horowhenua, Ohakune, Pukekohe/Waikato, and Selwyn.

A significant number of growers have completed their GAP-farm environment plan (FEP) to comply with Freshwater Farm Plans.

Support in the final five catchment regions is continuing and are nearing closure: Central Otago, Gisborne, Hawke’s Bay, Northland, and the Bay of Plenty. Training and rollout for the use of a freshwater tool specifically tailored for the kiwifruit industry is being delivered in the Bay of Plenty in collaboration with Zespri.

The Government is amending the RMA and a pathway has been proposed to recognise industry assurance programmes like NZGAP to deliver audited and certified freshwater farm plans.

This means that growers who have participated in Growing Change and completed their NZGAP Environmental Management System (EMS) add-on will be able to use this same assurance system to certify their freshwater farm plans.

The three-year project, which is due to end 30 June 2025, has fostered peer learning through a network of specialist advisors, equipped growers with the knowledge to enhance farm practices, and improved freshwater outcomes within the horticulture sector.

Over the past year, approximately 133 growers and 121 stakeholders have been engaged with in total. As of April 2025, 116 FEPs have been completed, which cover approximately 16,600 hectares of land. The project is on track to achieve its targets, with the number of FEPs completed already exceeded.

Focus area	Metric	Target	Actuals
On-farm and other restoration activities	Number of farm environment plans completed	85	116
	Area (hectare) of works covered by farm environment plans completed	37,500	16,600
Training	Number of people receiving formal education and training (tertiary, NZQA)	150	0
	Number of people receiving formal training (not NZQA)	61	43
	Number of people receiving informal training (on-the-job)	183	164

Telling the Horticulture Story

| HortNZ tells the horticulture story to elevate support for growers.

Measure: HortNZ published 72 media releases and stories on the website. We issued a weekly newsletter via email and published a total of 16 magazines. During the year NZGrower and The Orchardist magazines were combined into a singular magazine titled NZGrower and Orchardist.

The HortNZ weekly newsletter continues to reach over 4,700 subscribers. This is complemented by regular updates across our website and social media channels -- LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.

We attended four field days during the year, including exhibiting at Mystery Creek Fielddays, Northland Field Days, Central Districts Field Days, and the South Island Agricultural Field Days in Kirwee.

To further elevate and tell the HortNZ story, we secured interviews across local, national, and Māori media channels -- helping to build understanding of the horticulture sector and strengthening our relationships with key media outlets.

This year, we also implemented HubSpot, a customer relationship management platform that enables us to deliver more targeted and relevant communications to our audiences.



Social licence marketing campaign

HortNZ initiated its first marketing campaign to improve the industry's social licence, with the overall long-term objective of ensuring commercial fruit and vegetables growers have the support of the public – especially around growers' increased barriers and regulation.

Our campaign focused on fostering an understanding and appreciation of the immense effort, skills, resilience, passion, and innovation involved in growing our food. By raising awareness, the campaign aims to inspire support for policies that sustain and strengthen horticulture.

The campaign ran from August to November 2024 on the Meta platform (Facebook and Instagram) with some supporting PR.

REACH

1.5 million total impressions and 250,000 people reached on social media

VIDEO IMPACT

368,000 video through-plays

PARTICIPATION

32,000 website visitors
12,369 landing page views and
2,889 pledges of support.

Facilitating Grower Connections

HortNZ facilitates grower connections to enable sector wide information sharing, networking and attracting and developing talent.

Measures: HortNZ held the New Zealand Horticulture Conferences (RSE Conference and Horticulture Conference). We supported six regional Young Grower competitions and hosted the national final. 81 people engaged with development opportunities provided by HortNZ.

Horticulture conferences

More than 600 people from across New Zealand's horticulture sector attended the annual New Zealand Horticulture Conferences in Mount Maunganui in August. The event, which combined the Horticulture Conference and the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Conference, attracted growers, industry groups, sector leaders and supply chain partners from across the country to discuss pressing issues, challenges and opportunities.

The conferences provided a platform for industry to share stories, ideas and inspiration that were aligned with the Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan.

Speakers included Hon. Nicola Grigg, Associate Minister of Agriculture (Horticulture), MP Catherine Wedd speaking on behalf of the Hon. Erica Stanford, Minister of Immigration, Rachel Depree, Executive Officer for Sustainability at Zespri and Tim Jarvis, Adventurer and Environmental Scientist.

Gareth Edgecombe, CEO T&G Global, Andrew Watene, Head of KPMG Propagate and Simon Limmer, CEO, Indevin, were also on the programme.

Young Grower of the Year

The annual Young Grower of the Year competition celebrates the success of young people in the industry as well as encouraging others to consider a career in horticulture.

HortNZ was again pleased to support six regional competitions and host the national final in Hawke's Bay. 2024 saw Grace Fulford from Hawke's Bay win the national competition.

Grace grew up around her family's orchard in Hastings. She initially headed to university to study engineering but decided that wasn't for her. She came back from university and did some work around the orchard and just fell in love with it. She worked in the family business before joining T&G.

Grace says "It's just such a cool industry to work in. I have learned so much. I love the variety, there are so many different career opportunities, and the people are such a big part of it, there are just great people across the sector."

The other 2024 finalists were:

- Farrah Richards, Nelson
- Jamie Wells, Pukekohe
- Lilah Rosenfeldt, Bay of Plenty
- Luke St John, Central Otago
- Pip Terekia, Gisborne

In 2025, we see the return of a Canterbury regional final, the first time in several years.

Young Grower[™]
of the year



Grace Fulford, Young Grower of the Year 2024



Industry awards

Each year HortNZ shines a light on those in the sector that have made a significant contribution to commercial fruit and vegetable growing in New Zealand. The 2024 awards were presented at the Horticulture Conference gala dinner and awards evening in Mt Maunganui in August.

Horticulture Bledisloe Cup

The Horticulture Bledisloe Cup, awarded annually for an outstanding and meritorious contribution to the New Zealand horticulture industry, was won by Dr Stuart Davis, sustainability manager at LeaderBrand in 2024.

Stuart has played a significant role in the vegetable sector for more than 35 years.

He has been a strong champion for introducing science and innovation into vegetable production. He has been particularly skilled at linking innovation to concrete practical outcomes for enhancing sustainable vegetable production.

During the 1990s, he championed the commercial application of mathematical crop prediction models for sweetcorn and other vegetable production, working in collaboration with Crop & Food Research.

This was leading edge thinking, building an important part of the foundation for the partnership that has been forged between the New Zealand vegetable industry and science.

Stuart's leadership roles have also included previously chairing the Vegetable Research & Innovation (VR&I) Board, which co-ordinates research investment by a number of vegetable product groups.

He was instrumental in initiating and championing research to understand relationships of vegetable farming with the environment and developing new thinking on sustainable methods of crop production.



Dr Stuart Davis (middle) Horticulture Bledisloe Cup winner 2024

This ultimately led to the creation of A Lighter Touch, the \$27 million, seven-year, programme jointly funded by MPI as part of the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures programme, and the industry.

The programme is addressing the challenge of meeting consumer demands for safe food produced under sustainable pest management programmes whilst also caring for the environment. Stuart also chairs the programme's Industry Sector Advisory Group.



Kris Robb (middle) President's Trophy winner 2024

President's Trophy

Kris Robb was awarded the President's Trophy in 2024 in recognition of his passion for working on behalf of the horticulture industry and his commitment as a business leader and successful grower.

Kris began his career in horticulture in 1995 straight out of high school with a temporary job processing dried apricots in Clyde.

He was invited to stay on full-time, developing an enduring passion for fruit production and orchard management and underpinned that with a commerce degree from the University of Otago.

Kris holds a number of leaderships roles, alongside these roles, during COVID-19 he went above and beyond in securing New Zealand labour for the wider Central Otago region through his independent work on social media and contribution to other industry initiatives.

He has produced over 60 videos that collectively tell the story of life on an orchard.

Through documenting the daily activities and decision-making requirements on an orchard operation, he is helping to lift the profile of horticulture in Central Otago--along with educating and entertaining the local community with the complexities of fruit production.

Industry Service Award

HortNZ awarded one Industry Service Award in 2024 in recognition of long and dedicated service in a supplier or service role: working beyond the call of duty for the betterment of the horticulture industry. Horticultural consultant John Dine was the 2024 recipient.

He has given four decades of service to New Zealand's growers and has been at the forefront of fruit industry transformation.

His significant contributions include the introduction of high-density dwarf rootstocks, whole-season consultancy contracts, corporate growing consultancy, and the development of Integrated Fruit



John Dine (middle) Industry Service Award winner 2024

Production (IFP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programmes.

John joined the former Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as a horticultural officer in 1978, focusing on kiwifruit, apple and stonefruit crops.

In 1987, he joined Rex Graham and Associates, known as the No1 Fruit Company, as a horticulture consultant. He also became one of the first investor growers, managing extensive apple and kiwi orchards across Hawke's Bay.

In 1990, he founded Dine Horticulture Services, specialising in working with smaller growers which included weekly visits with hands-on advice focusing on pruning and chemical thinning and an emphasis on preventative consultancy.

In 1996, he joined Ag New Zealand which became Fruition following a management buyout.

During his time at Fruition, John formed the Hi20 group for orchard improvement.

His involvement in benchmarking and presenting results fostered robust discussions and significant advancements in the industry with many Hi20 members participating in trials for the IFP system, developed in collaboration with Plant & Food Research and New Zealand Apples and Pears Incorporated.

He went on to operations manager and technical manager roles, and since 2020, has been a private consultant working with leading companies in the sector.

Environmental Award

There was no Environmental Award in 2024.

Life Membership Award

There were no Life Membership Awards in 2024.

Promoting horticulture as a career

Leadership development

The HortNZ Leadership Programme was piloted in 2024 following the review in 2023. There were 18 scholarship recipients with seven of these positions funded through the Grower Relief Fund supporting employers of Cyclone Gabrielle impacted businesses. The success of the pilot has led to a partnership with Rural Leaders to deliver the programme for the next three years for potential and current leaders from all age groups in the fruit and vegetable industry.

The Emerging Leaders course was delivered to 75 supervisors/people leaders focussing on self-awareness and will be the last year the course received AGMARDT funding to subsidise the private training fee. HortNZ initiated and supported the creation of a micro-credential that has since been approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority so that future delivery can receive formal industry training funding through the Tertiary Education Commission.

HortNZ scholarships

HortNZ continued to offer trades training, undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships targeting learners in studies related to horticulture. There were 29 successful recipients of the HortNZ Industry Training Scholarships in 2024.

Recipients of our 17 undergraduate scholarships and three postgraduates received an all-expenses paid experience to the 2024 Horticulture Conference held in Tauranga. The top three undergraduates received a further \$3,000 to support their studies funded by the Hortcentre Charitable Trust.

Three postgraduate students received \$10,000, two funded by NZ Fruitgrowers' Charitable Trust, and one by HortNZ. These scholarships have supported research in the role of calcium uptake in cherry fruit production, identifying gaps in the knowledge of soil recovery after Cyclone Gabrielle and decision support tools for high value crops, and exploring ways to control plant size and shape at a molecular level using artificial intelligence to design and test small proteins that bind to hormone receptors in plants.

Horticulture as a career

HortNZ has supported InZone in constructing two hexagon World of Work kiosk displays for seven national careers expos to provide an approachable way to explore career options with over 3,000 sessions recorded over the events.

World of Work kiosks with horticulture careers content are also placed in 50 various locations including school career rooms, libraries, and youth hubs. New software has made the kiosks even more intuitive, providing users with a modern way to navigate the wide range of opportunities available.

HortNZ also ran a careers stand at the Mystery Creek Fieldays in Hamilton and partnered with Agribusiness in Schools providing funding to support teachers in 110 secondary schools delivering agribusiness achievement standards.

HortNZ has re-developed the GoHort Taster Courses to expand their applicability to all fruit and vegetable crops and are designed for people who want to learn more about horticulture e.g., students, teachers, career changes, and new employees.



2024 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship recipients

Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
31 March 2025

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Entity Information

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Legal name of entity

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

Incorporated Societies Number

1692422

Entity type and legal basis

Incorporated Society

Entity's purpose

Leadership, advocacy and influence for grower success

Entity structure

Incorporated Society

Main Source of entity's cash and resources

Revenue generated from levies

Main methods used by entity to raise funds

Funded through a commodity levy on the sale of fruit and vegetables

Physical address

Level 4
20 Ballance Street
Wellington 6011

Postal address

PO Box 10232
Wellington 6140

Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 31 March 2025

OUR ASPIRATION

Healthy food for all, forever.
*Oranga kai, oranga tangata,
haere ake nei*

OUR VISION

To create an enduring
environment where growers
thrive

PURPOSE

Leadership, advocacy and
influence for grower success

GOALS



Growing is rewarding



**All growers are
responsible growers**



**Growers can keep
growing**



**Strength through trust
and cooperation**

Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) is an Incorporated Society. HortNZ is funded by a levy under the Commodity Levies (Vegetables and Fruit) Order 2024. In 2024, HortNZ held a referendum asking growers to vote on a new compulsory levy affecting all fruit and vegetables. Growers voted yes to the levy, which came into effect in December 2024. The Levy Order Act requires the Levy Funds to be spent on the following; research and development; market and trade research, development, and promotion; industry

promotion; development and implementation of quality assurance; education and training, including attracting people to the industry, and developing and retaining them; information and communication, including advocating for and representing growers; protection and improvement of the health of plants, including biosecurity activities; day-to-day administration of HortNZ, including central grower registration systems.

Strategic Priority	Measure	2024/25 Outcome	2023/24 Outcome
<p>Shaping Sector Strategy</p> <p>We delivered on shaping sector strategy to ensure there is a collective long-term vision for horticulture and an effective structure to deliver on strategic initiatives by:</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Influencing wider food and fibre sector initiatives. Participating in pan-sector working groups allows HortNZ to advance horticultural interests at the table with other primary sector groups. Invitation to participate in these groups shows that the HortNZ voice is valued. HortNZ is often the only representative for the horticulture industry in these groups and makes clear what differentiates our needs from other industries.</p>	The number of pan-sector working groups or governance groups that HortNZ participated in.	HortNZ participated in 18 pan-sector working groups or governance groups.	HortNZ participated in 15 pan-sector working groups or governance groups.
<p>Proactively Influencing Policy</p> <p>We delivered on proactively influencing policy to seek the best operating conditions for horticulture in the areas of environment, biosecurity, food safety, crop protection and labour by:</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Responding to government and local council consultations.</p>	The number of submissions lodged by HortNZ.	HortNZ lodged 49 submissions.	HortNZ lodged 61 submissions.
<p>Telling the Horticulture Story</p> <p>We delivered on telling the horticulture story to elevate support for growing by:</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Conveying what the opportunities are and what it takes to grow good food.</p>	Number of HortNZ media releases published and the number of media requests for comment.	Hort NZ published 72 media releases/stories on the website. Issued a weekly newsletter via email. Issued a total of 16 magazines. During the year NZGrower and The Orchardist magazines were combined into a singular magazine.	HortNZ published 66 media releases/stories on the website. There were 11 issues each of the NZGrower and The Orchardist magazines and weekly email newsletter.
<p>Translating Sector Wide Change</p> <p>We delivered on translating sector wide change to ensure growers and rural professionals are aware of newly implemented policy, regulations and requirements by:</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>Providing growers up to date, relevant and reliable information in an integrated way.</p>	The number of industry information sharing and upskilling events, e.g., training sessions/workshops held by HortNZ.	HortNZ hosted three Horticulture Industry Forum events presenting on a range of topics of interest for the sector and five Growing Change workshops.	HortNZ hosted three Horticulture Industry Forum events presenting on a range of topics of interest for the sector.
<p>Facilitating Grower Connections</p> <p>We delivered on facilitating grower connections to enable sector wide information sharing, celebrating success, networking and attracting and developing talent by:</p> <p>Objective 1:</p> <p>Hosting events for growers</p> <p>Objective 2:</p> <p>Attract and develop talent</p>	Number of events held by HortNZ.	<p>HortNZ held the Horticulture and RSE conferences.</p> <p>HortNZ supported six Young Grower competitions and hosted the national final.</p>	<p>HortNZ held a week long horticulture and RSE conference in conjunction with NZ Apples & Pears.</p> <p>HortNZ hosted six Young Grower competitions plus the final event.</p>
	Number of people engaging with HortNZ development opportunities.	<p>HortNZ awarded 63 scholarships.</p> <p>HortNZ Leadership Programme was piloted with 18 participants.</p>	<p>HortNZ awarded 24 scholarships.</p> <p>There was no leadership course in 2023/24 as we sought to refresh the format and relaunch in 2024/25.</p>

HortNZ has used measures and outcomes that are materially within their control and for activity associated with and funded by the Levy. HortNZ has not included measures that are more broadly aligned to the sector's performance as there are factors not influenced by HortNZ's activity that can affect this performance.

Approval of Financial Report

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Directors are pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2025.

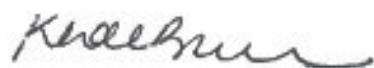
APPROVED



Bernadine Guilleux

Board Chair

25 June 2025



Kathryn de Bruin

Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

25 June 2025

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Account	Notes	2025	2024
Revenue			
Horticulture New Zealand - Core Activity		11,076,519	11,221,359
New Zealand GAP		1,491,360	1,490,432
Vegetable Research & Innovation Board		372,313	138,302
Vegetables.co.nz		3,498	12,303
Process Vegetables NZ		549,428	830,173
SFFF - A Lighter Touch		4,971,007	4,654,260
Total Revenue	22	18,464,126	18,346,830
Expenses			
Horticulture New Zealand - Core Activity		9,844,282	10,528,268
New Zealand GAP		1,476,925	1,495,320
Vegetable Research & Innovation Board		280,097	317,831
Vegetables.co.nz		215,627	423,267
Process Vegetables NZ		439,681	612,196
SFFF - A Lighter Touch		4,848,012	4,473,094
Total Expenses	22	17,104,624	17,849,977
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		1,359,501	496,853
Tax Expense	9	127,649	75,031
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year after Tax		1,231,852	421,822

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statement.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Accumulated Funds 2025	Notes	Opening Balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Movements in Reserves	Closing Balance
Horticulture New Zealand		5,141,445	1,104,588	(262,095)	5,983,938
New Zealand GAP		536,793	14,435	195,852	747,079
Vegetable Research & Innovation Board		136,722	92,217	(39,344)	189,595
Vegetables.co.nz		217,129	(212,129)	(5,000)	0
Process Vegetables NZ		809,678	109,747	(224,259)	695,166
SFFF - A Lighter Touch		1,504,707	122,994	334,846	1,962,546
Total Accumulated Funds		8,346,472	1,231,852	-	9,578,325

Accumulated Funds 2024	Notes	Opening Balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Movements in Reserves	Closing Balance
Horticulture New Zealand		4,559,033	618,060	(35,648)	5,141,445
New Zealand GAP		565,173	(4,888)	(23,492)	536,793
Vegetable Research & Innovation Board		340,884	(179,530)	(24,632)	136,722
Vegetables.co.nz		640,952	(410,963)	(12,860)	217,129
Process Vegetables NZ		617,529	217,976	(25,827)	809,678
SFFF - A Lighter Touch		1,201,083	181,166	122,458	1,504,707
Total Accumulated Funds		7,924,653	421,821	-	8,346,474

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

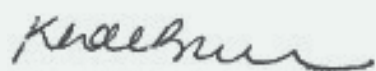
Statement of Financial Position

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Account	Notes	2025	2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	7	4,176,489	3,089,038
Prepayments		300,121	116,269
Sundry debtors		3,313,580	2,514,117
Investments	8	5,459,264	4,595,230
Provision for tax	9	-	21,460
Total Current Assets		13,249,453	10,336,114
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	370,988	437,743
Intangible assets	11	65,987	72,240
Total Non-Current Assets		436,974	509,983
Total Assets		13,686,427	10,846,097
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenditure	12	2,197,300	1,938,154
Goods and Services Tax GST		158,783	152,795
Income in advance	13	1,708,654	408,673
Provision for tax	9	43,364	-
Total Current Liabilities		4,108,102	2,499,622
Total Liabilities		4,108,102	2,499,622
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		9,578,325	8,346,474
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses and deficits		9,578,325	8,346,474
Total Accumulated Funds		9,578,325	8,346,474



Bernadine Guilleux
Board Chair
25 June 2025



Kathryn de Bruin
Chair of Audit and Risk Committee
25 June 2025

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statement.

Statement of Cash Flows

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Account	Notes	2025	2024
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Cash was received from:			
Levies		7,660,372	6,690,735
Grants		6,303,338	7,039,016
Member fees/subscriptions		497,958	36,782
Goods and services		2,152,620	2,386,911
Interest income		386,427	290,822
		17,000,715	16,444,267
Cash was applied to:			
Payment to employees		5,727,453	5,389,553
Payments to suppliers for goods and services		9,135,157	10,520,107
Payments for taxes		(112,655)	(18,431)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		2,250,760	553,038
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Cash was applied to:			
Fixed asset purchases		(272,536)	(416,543)
Intangible purchases		(26,740)	(72,240)
Increase in investments		(864,033)	(566,367)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(1,163,309)	(1,055,150)
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash		1,087,451	(502,113)
Opening cash		3,089,038	3,591,151
Closing cash		4,176,489	3,089,038
This is represented by:			
Bank and Cash	7	4,176,489	3,089,038

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Reporting Entity

Horticulture New Zealand Inc ('the society') is a society registered in New Zealand under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The industry association represents New Zealand's 4500+ commercial fruit and vegetable growers.

The Society is funded by a commodity levy on the sale of commercially grown fruit and vegetables.

The organisation is governed by a board of nine directors made up of two appointed independent directors and seven elected grower directors. Additionally there is one appointed non-voting future director.

The financial statements are for the society and its wholly owned subsidiary Horticulture New Zealand Limited.

2. Basis of Preparation

(a) Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP). They comply with the Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting applying the Reduced Disclosure Regime ("PBE IPSAS RDR"), as appropriate for Tier 2 not-for-profit public benefit entities.

The board considers the basis to be appropriate for the users of the financial statements.

The Society has complied with the PBE IPSAS RDR in all material respects. The Accounting Policies that have been applied in respect to the preparation of financial statements are set out below.

The financial statements were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution dated 5 July 2025.

(b) Measurement Basis

These financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis. The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (NZ\$) and all values are rounded to the nearest NZ\$, except when otherwise indicated.

(c) Comparatives

The comparative financial period is 12 months. Comparatives have been reclassified from that reported in the 31 March 2024 financial statements where appropriate to ensure consistency with the presentation of the current years position and performance. The net asset position and net surplus or deficit in comparatives is consistent with previously authorised financial statements.

3. Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements and have been applied consistently by the Society, except as explained in Note 4, which addresses changes in accounting policies.

(a) Presentation of Statement of Revenue and Expense and Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Both the Statement of Revenue and Expense and Statement of Changes in Net Assets are presented on a by function basis categorised by the product groups that exist within the Society. Transactions that occur between product groups are disclosed as transfers within the Statement of Changes in Net Assets.

(b) Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at fair value of consideration received.

The following specific revenue streams are recognised:

(i) NZGAP fees

Annual Fees for NZGAP is non-exchange revenue and accounted for on an accrual basis. Revenue is recognised when the fees are invoiced to the growers.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

(ii) Levies

Levies are non-exchange revenue and accounted for on an accrual basis. Revenue is recognised for produce sold in the year to 31 March where a growers levy declaration has been received by the Society.

(iii) Orchardist and Grower Subscriptions

Subscription income is exchange revenue and recognised as earned by reference to the actual subscription period. Membership subscription received in relation to the following financial year is carried as a liability (income in advance).

(iv) Grant Income and Project Funding

Grant and project funding income is non-exchange revenue and recognised as revenue when associated obligations have been met. Any remaining unspent funds at the end of the project are returned to the grant provider as per the contract.

(v) Conference Fees and Sponsorship

Income from events that Horticulture New Zealand has organised is exchange revenue and recognised once the event has occurred.

(vi) Administration Service Income

Horticulture New Zealand provides administration services to external product groups. This is exchange revenue and invoiced on a monthly basis.

(vii) Magazine Advertising

Horticulture New Zealand generates revenue through advertising sales in its monthly magazine. This revenue is recognised in alignment with the publication period of each magazine issue.

(viii) Contribution Income

Contribution Income is non-exchange revenue and recognised as revenue when associated obligations have been met.

(ix) In-kind Income

Horticulture New Zealand provides in-kind contributions to the projects, the income recognised on a monthly basis.

(c) Finance Income and Finance Costs

Interest income is exchange revenue and recognised using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Society becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Purchases and sales of financial assets are accounted for at trade date, i.e., the date that the Society commits to purchase or sell the asset.

The Society derecognises a financial asset when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired or are waived, or the Society has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party; and either:

- The Society has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
- The Society has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

Financial assets

Financial assets within the scope of NFP PBE IPSAS 41 Financial Instruments. The classifications of the financial assets are determined at initial recognition. On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at: amortised cost; fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense (FVOCI) – debt investment and equity investment; or fair value through surplus or deficit (FVTSD).

A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated as at FVTSD:

- it is held within a management model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows.
- and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in surplus or deficit. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Financial Liabilities

The Society's financial liabilities include payables (excluding GST and PAYE), and accrued expenses.

All financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value (plus transaction cost for financial liabilities not at fair value through surplus or deficit). They are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for financial liabilities at fair value through surplus or deficit in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense. Financial liabilities are derecognised if the society's obligations specified in the contract expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(e) Income Tax

Income Tax is accounted for by the tax payable method.

(f) Goods and Services Tax

The Statement of Revenue and Expense has been prepared so that all components are stated exclusive of GST. All items in the Statement of Financial Position are stated net of GST, with the exception of receivables and payables, which include GST invoiced.

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment

The cost of purchased property, plant and equipment is the consideration value given to acquire the assets and to get them to the location and condition necessary for their intended service.

(i) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on office equipment and furniture and IT hardware. Depreciation is calculated on either a diminishing value or a straight line basis. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period.

Office equipment and furniture 7.0% - 67% straight line or diminishing value

(h) Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost. All of the Society's intangible assets are subsequently measured in accordance with the cost model, being cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment.

The Society has no intangible assets with indefinite lives. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset.

(i) Amortisation

Amortisation is recognised on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each amortisable intangible asset.

Intangible assets 40% - 50% straight line

(i) Leases

Leases in terms of which the Society assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as finance leases. Leases that are not finance leases are classified as operating leases. Operating leases are not recognised in the Societies Statement of Financial Position.

4. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies.

5. Changes due to the initial application of new, revised and amended PBE Standards

There have been no changes to PBE Standards requiring application in these financial statements.

6. Allocation of Interest

Interest income, less the associated provision for taxation is allocated to each division within Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated, based on their average accumulated funds over the preceding 12 months.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
7. Cash and Bank		
BNZ Direct Levy Account	16,291	183,988
BNZ Autocall Account	447,448	373,048
BNZ Current Account HortNZ	1,976,196	1,271,525
BNZ Current Account ALT	822,982	161,827
BNZ Savings Account ALT	913,573	1,098,650
Investment Bank Accounts	-	-
Total Cash and Bank	4,176,489	3,089,038

	2025	2024
8. Investments		
Term Investment - BNZ	2,858,474	2,541,015
Term Investment - Kiwibank	-	1,017,020
Term Investment - Rabobank	2,600,790	1,037,195
Total Investments	5,459,264	4,595,230

Interest rates on investments were 4.30% - 5.80% (2024: 4.60% - 6.00%)

	2025	2024
9. Income Tax		
Current Year Earnings	1,359,501	496,852
Tax at 28%	380,660	139,119
Adjustments to Income Tax		
Tax on non assessable income	(4,160,089)	(4,190,475)
Tax on non deductible expenditure	3,936,982	4,129,439
Total Tax Effect of Adjustments	(223,108)	(61,036)
Tax payable before losses brought forward	157,553	78,038
Use of losses brought forward	-	(2,727)
Tax credit for non-profit bodies	(280)	(280)
Tax Expense for the Period	157,273	75,031
Adjustment to prior year tax expense	(29,625)	-
Total Expense for the Period	127,648	-
RWT	(113,908)	(96,491)
Provision for tax	157,273	75,031
	43,364	(21,460)
Current tax asset opening balance	(21,460)	(62,730)
Tax expense for the period	157,273	75,031
RWT	(113,908)	(96,491)
Tax refunds received	21,460	62,730
Tax Expense (Refund) Due	43,364	(21,460)

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

10. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Office Equipment and Furniture	Leasehold Improvements	Total
Cost of Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2024	366,897	553,301	920,198
Additions	26,500	246,036	272,536
Disposals	-	(261,161)	(261,162)
Balance as at 31 March 2025	393,398	538,176	931,572
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2024	219,054	263,401	482,455
Depreciation	46,609	31,521	78,129
Balance as at 31 March 2025	265,663	294,921	560,583
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2025	127,736	243,254	370,988
As at 31 March 2024	147,843	289,900	437,743

11. Intangible Assets

	Software	Intangible Assets	Total
Cost of Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2024	401,456	-	401,455
Additions	26,740	-	26,740
Balance as at 31 March 2025	428,196		428,195
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2024	329,216	-	329,215
Depreciation	32,993	-	32,993
Balance as at 31 March 2025	362,209		362,208
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2025	65,987	-	65,987
As at 31 March 2024	72,240	-	72,240

	2025	2024
12. Creditors and Accrued Expenditure		
Trade Creditors	1,377,141	1,179,881
Accrued Expenditure	628,122	557,439
Employee Entitlements	192,036	200,834
Total Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	2,197,300	1,938,154

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
13. Income in Advance		
ICMP	858,199	-
Other income in advance	350,054	172,898
Conferences	307,231	-
ACC injury project	67,535	113,466
NTWG	66,324	89,491
NZGAP	59,312	32,817
Total Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	1,708,654	408,673

	2025	2024
14. Professional Services		
Payments to Auditors - Audit Fee	54,000	42,000
Total payments made were:	54,000	42,000

15. Commitments

The following amounts have been committed by Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated but not recognised in the financial statements.

	2025	2024
Operating Leases		
Non Cancellable Operating Lease Commitments		
Within one year	344,670	351,042
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,181,880	49,180
Later than five years	787,920	-
Total Non Cancellable Operating Lease Commitments	2,314,470	400,222
Total Operating Leases	2,314,470	400,222

16. Capital Commitments

Horticulture New Zealand has commitments to the following projects:

SFFF A Lighter Touch - \$100,000 per year for the next 2 years.

Growing Change - \$291,728 cash and \$101,295 in-kind over the next year.

17. Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at 31 March 2025. (2024: 250,000)

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

18. Related Parties

Horticulture New Zealand Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary company of Horticulture New Zealand Inc was incorporated on 13 October 2004. Ownership is by way of 100% shareholding of 200 shares in Horticulture New Zealand Limited. These shares have no nominal value. The directors of Horticulture New Zealand Limited are also the President and Vice President of the Board of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated.

Management has not consolidated the subsidiary Horticulture New Zealand Limited, recognising the investment in this company as an investment at cost. The subsidiary company is not trading and has no significant assets or liabilities. Management believe any difference in treatment as a consolidation entity or as an investment at cost is not material.

Directors of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated, who are growers, pay levies to Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated through the entities they are associated with.

Executive Leadership Team (ELT) member Rebecca Fisher, of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated is an Executive Committee Member of United Fresh New Zealand Incorporated. Horticulture New Zealand paid United Fresh New Zealand Incorporated \$18,000 for memberships, advertising and sponsorship in 2025 (2024: \$18,000).

Nadine Tunley, the Chief Executive of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated from June 2021 to August 2024, is also a Director of The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited. The New Zealand Plant & Food Research Limited has supplied consultancy services to Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated for many years.

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated paid The New Zealand Plant & Food Research Limited \$716,750 (2024: \$681,548) for consultancy services for the Vegetable Research & Innovation Board, Process Vegetables NZ, SFFF - A Lighter Touch and Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated.

Kate Scott, the new Chief Executive of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated from October 2024, is also a Director and Shareholder of Landpro Limited, and Trustee and Chair of the Rural Leaders Trust. Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated paid Landpro Limited \$37,697 (2024: \$15,874) for consultancy services for the Growing Change project. Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated paid the New Zealand Rural Leadership Trust \$135,300 (FY24: \$30,000).

The President of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated, Barry O'Neil, is the Chair of Tomatoes NZ Incorporated and a Director of Horticulture Executive Services Limited (HESL). Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated provides administrative services and employees of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated are the main administrators of Tomatoes NZ Incorporated and HESL. In 2025, Tomatoes NZ paid Horticulture New Zealand \$12,352 (2024: \$2,219), and HESL paid \$100,155 (2024: \$5,954) for finance and administrative services provided by Horticulture New Zealand.

Hugh Ritchie is a Director and Chairman of the Foundation for Arable Research (FAR). Horticulture New Zealand contributed \$310,798 (2024: \$294,242) towards research projects for FAR and received \$265,097 (2024: \$265,097) for the ALT programme.

Kathryn de Bruin is the Chair for the Grower Relief fund. Horticulture New Zealand received \$75,000 from the Grower Relief fund during 2025.

Vegetables New Zealand Incorporated is a related party by virtue of sub-groups held within Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated.

Transactions Undertaken:

	\$ This Year	\$ Last Year
Accounts receivable outstanding at year end	44,843	17,405
Funding provided to Vegetable Research & Innovation Board	212,820	82,053
Funding provided to NZGrower and The Orchardist magazines	24,110	27,350
Funding provided to District Association Grant	-	2,925
Conference and administrative services provided	63,812	71,457
Accounts payable outstanding at year end	4,867	5,194

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated classifies its key management personnel into one of two classes:

- Members of the governing body
- Senior executive officers, responsible for reporting to the governing body

Members of the governing body are paid an annual fee. Full disclosures are included in the 2025 Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated Annual Report.

The executive officers are employees of Horticulture New Zealand Inc, on normal employment terms.

	2025	2024
Remuneration	1,269,475	1,145,571
Number of executive officers	8	6

The total number of executive positions has remained consistent. The increase in executive officers to 8 (FY24:6) is due to the replacement hiring for the positions of Chief Executive and General Manager of Corporate Services.

19. Events Subsequent to Balance Date

There were no other events subsequent to balance date that would require disclosure.

20. SFFF - A Lighter Touch Project

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated entered into a Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Partnership Agreement with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 1 April 2020. The Project is called A Lighter Touch, and is a 7 year project running until 31 March 2027. The total budgeted cost for this project in the SFFF Agreement with MPI is \$27,073,129. For this project, Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated is the lead agency for the Horticulture Industry and MPI.

Other contributors to the project include Boysenberries New Zealand Limited, Bragato, Citrus New Zealand, Foundation of Arable Research, Horticulture New Zealand, New Zealand Buttercup Squash Council, New Zealand Persimmon Industry Council, Onions New Zealand, Summerfruit New Zealand, Strawberry Growers NZ Inc, Tomatoes NZ, Vegetables New Zealand and Zespri.

The goal of the project is to focus on agroecological crop protection practices to create a more desirable source of food, using biopesticides (natural materials) and biological controls to ensure crop protection.

	2025	2024
Total Income		
Funding received from MPI	1,953,713	1,813,413
Funding received from industry contributors	1,828,912	1,329,930
In-kind funding	1,535,142	1,606,146
Interest income	32,086	27,229
Total income	5,349,853	4,776,718
Less intercompany transactions	(378,846)	(122,458)
	4,971,007	4,654,260

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

MPI funding is billed after costs have been incurred and is calculated including in-kind expenses and therefore there is no income in advance in relation to this part of the funding. Hence the income in advance is only related to the funding received from the industry.

In 2025, Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated contributed \$100,000 (FY24: \$100,000) to the project in cash and \$44,868 (FY24: \$60,436) in-kind. Process Vegetables New Zealand contributed \$234,850 in cash (FY24: \$22,458), all of which have been eliminated on consolidation.

21. Financial Instruments

Classification of financial instruments

The carrying amounts presented in the Statement of Financial Position relate to the following categories of financial assets

2025	Financial Assets at Amortised Cost	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	Total
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4,176,489		4,176,489
Trade debtors and other receivables	3,156,308		3,156,308
Investments	5,459,264		5,459,264
Total	12,792,060		12,792,060
Financial Liabilities			
Trade creditors and other payables		2,005,264	2,005,264
	-	2,005,264	2,005,264

2024	Financial Assets at Amortised Cost	Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	Total
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3,591,151		3,591,151
Trade debtors and other receivables	2,506,412		2,506,412
Investments	4,028,863		4,028,863
Total	10,126,426		10,126,426
Financial Liabilities			
Trade creditors and other payables		1,352,489	1,352,489
	-	1,352,489	1,352,489

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

22. Statement of Financial Performance by Nature

Below is the Statement of Financial Performance by Nature which shows revenue, expenditure and surplus per the individual product group (Process Vegetables NZ) and internal groups (NZGAP, Vegetable Research & Innovation, Vegetables.co.nz, SFFF - A Lighter Touch) included in the financial statements.

The surplus/(deficit) is shown in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets.

	HortNZ	NZGAP	Vegetable Research & Innovation	Vegetables .co.nz	Process Vegetables New Zealand	SFFF A Lighter Touch	Consolidation entries	2025 totals	2024 totals
Revenues									
Levy Revenue									
Levies	6,852,088				492,380			7,344,468	6,646,043
Non-levy Revenue									
Conference fees and sponsorships	930,691							930,691	757,545
Grant income and project funding	2,126,340	313,056	-			3,782,625	(662,246)	5,559,775	6,090,512
The Orchardist and NZGrower advertising and subscriptions	508,419		-					508,419	763,495
Interest income	257,585	21,041	5,595	3,498	25,541	32,086		345,346	295,848
NZGAP fees	-	1,450,319						1,450,319	1,563,967
Administrative service income	407,012						(130,958)	276,054	191,533
Contribution income	-		366,719		65,851			432,569	131,982
In-kind revenue	125,343					1,536,010	(44,868)	1,616,486	1,905,903
Total Revenues	11,207,478	1,784,416	372,313	3,498	583,772	5,350,721	(838,071)	18,464,127	18,346,828
Expenses									
Levy Funded Expenses									
People costs	4,052,003	622,746	8,755	56,440	105,998	866,257		5,712,200	5,442,530
Governance	388,153	18,136	10,694	2,162	64,185	30,509		513,840	504,297
Leadership, conferences, meetings	1,175,443		210,594	41,182	459,140	30,631	(269,193)	1,647,797	2,263,182
Travel and accommodation	574,301	17,122	5,106	3,237	9,824	40,608		650,198	515,898
Marketing and publications	532,339	28,892		90,569		128,861		780,661	998,168
Professional services	2,316,379	730,075	78,792	20,500	31,745	2,202,849	(393,052)	4,987,288	5,052,578
Information technology	291,068	24,512		1,538				317,118	304,500
Occupancy costs	368,829							368,829	326,467
Office and administration	335,347	99,653	5,498	5,000	27,392	57,155	(130,958)	399,088	454,506
Depreciation	78,130	32,993						111,123	81,948
In-kind expenses	125,343					1,536,010	(44,868)	1,616,486	1,905,903
Total Expenses	10,237,336	1,574,130	319,440	220,627	698,284	4,892,880	(838,071)	17,104,626	17,849,976
Surplus/Deficit for the Year Before Tax	970,143	210,286	52,873	(217,129)	(114,512)	457,840		1,359,501	496,852
Tax expense	127,649							127,649	75,031
Surplus/Deficit for the Year After Tax	842,493	210,286	52,873	(217,129)	(114,512)	457,840		1,231,852	421,821

Horticulture New Zealand includes the core function of Horticulture New Zealand, as well as the functions of four other divisions which make up the entity. Horticulture New Zealand transacts with the divisions and, to show an accurate representation of the entity activities, eliminates internal transactions. The eliminations are then adjusted back through reserves to fairly reflect the reserves belonging to each of the divisions.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated



BDO Wellington Audit Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated ("The Society"), which comprise the financial statements and the service performance information. The complete set of financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025, the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements presents fairly, in all material respects:

- The financial position of the Society as at 31 March 2025, and (of) its financial performance, and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- The service performance for the year ended 31 March 2025, in accordance with the entity's service performance criteria,

in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime ("PBE Standards RDR") issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)) and the audit of the service performance information in accordance with the ISAs and New Zealand Auditing Standard (NZ AS) 1 *The Audit of Service*

Performance Information (NZ). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Society.

Other Information

The Board are responsible for the other information. The other information not yet obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information contained in the annual report, but does not include the service performance information and the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the service performance information and financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the service performance information and financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the service performance information and the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Board's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

Those charged with governance are responsible on behalf of the Society for:

- (a) the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and service performance information in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards RDR issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board;
- (b) service performance criteria that are suitable in order to prepare service performance information in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards RDR; and
- (c) such internal control as those charged with governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements and service performance information that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements those charged with governance are responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless those charged with governance either intend to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole, and the service performance information are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1 will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate or collectively, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the XRB's website at <https://www.xrb.govt.nz/standards/assurance-standards/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-14/>

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Who we Report to

This report is made solely to the Society's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Society and the Society's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

BDO Wellington Audit Limited

BDO WELLINGTON AUDIT LIMITED Wellington

New Zealand

16 July 2025





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