

SUBMISSION ON

Fast Track Amendment Bill

18 November 2025

To: Environment Committee

Name of Submitter: Horticulture New Zealand

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OVERVIEW

Submission structure

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Our submission

Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) thanks the Environment Committee for the opportunity to submit on the Fast Track Amendment Bill.

HortNZ could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

The details of HortNZ's submission is set out in our submission below.

HortNZ's Role

Background to HortNZ

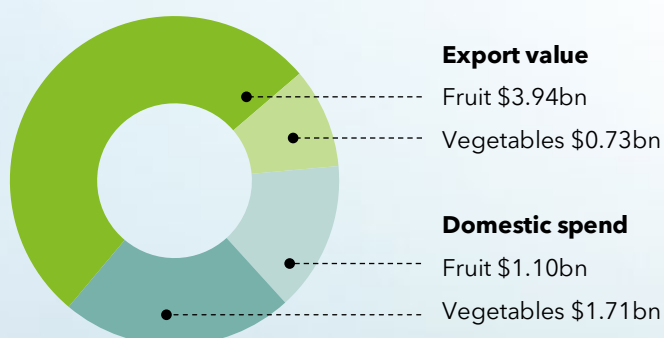
HortNZ represents the interests of approximately 4,500 commercial fruit and vegetable growers in New Zealand who grow around 100 different fruits and vegetables. The horticultural sector provides over 40,000 jobs.

There are approximately 80,000 hectares of land in New Zealand producing fruit and vegetables for domestic consumers and supplying our global trading partners with high quality food.

It is not just the direct economic benefits associated with horticultural production that are important. Horticulture production provides a platform for long term prosperity for communities, supports the growth of knowledge-intensive agri-tech and suppliers along the supply chain, and plays a key role in helping to achieve New Zealand's climate change objectives.

The horticulture sector plays an important role in food security for New Zealanders. Over 80% of vegetables grown are for the domestic market and many varieties of fruits are grown to serve the domestic market.

HortNZ's purpose is to create an enduring environment where growers prosper. This is done through enabling, promoting and advocating for growers in New Zealand.



Industry value \$7.48bn

Total exports \$4.67bn

Total domestic \$2.81bn

Source: Stats NZ and MPI

Submission

HortNZ supports the new clause s10a which introduces a new ministerial power to issue Government Policy Statements (GPS) under the Fast-Track Approvals Act. Once the Bill is passed, the draft Grocery GPS¹ will become an operative policy document, giving Ministers a clear legal basis to prioritise grocery sector projects for fast-track consideration.

While the detail of the GPS is not included in the amendment Bill, HortNZ has provided commentary in support of the intent and purpose of the GPS.

HortNZ works closely with the Commerce Commission to ensure suppliers interests are represented fairly through the Grocery Supply Code.

1. Grocery Policy Statement - Grocery Competition

HortNZ strongly supports the intent of the draft GPS to strengthen competition, improve market access, and support a more efficient and resilient grocery sector.

1.1. Strengthening Competition and Consumer Outcomes

HortNZ supports the GPS's objective to create "real and enduring competition" in the grocery sector. A more competitive retail environment encourages greater choice for consumers.

Overall, the GPS's focus on lifting competition has the potential to deliver positive outcomes from farmgate to consumer, supporting a more resilient, responsive, and dynamic fresh-produce market.

1.2. Enabling investment in logistics and infrastructure

We strongly support the GPS recognising the importance of "supporting infrastructure such as warehousing, logistics, and online retail capability." Modern, efficient logistics systems - particularly storage, and distribution facilities - are vital to the horticulture sector due to the perishable nature of fresh produce.

The GPS provides an opportunity to facilitate investment that strengthens both the domestic supply chain and the export value chain.

1.3. Supporting new and expanding competitors

The GPS's intention to make it easier for new retailers and alternative grocery models to establish and expand is welcomed. More diverse retail channels can create additional

¹ [Draft Government Policy Statement - Grocery Competition.pdf](#)

pathways for growers to sell produce, particularly in regional areas where options can be limited.

Conclusion

HortNZ is broadly supportive of the Fast Track Amendment Bill, and we believe the GPS presents a significant opportunity to strengthen New Zealand's food system by encouraging competition, supporting innovation, and enabling infrastructure investment.

With attention to the considerations outlined above, we believe the GPS can deliver enduring benefits for consumers, growers, and the wider food supply chain.