

Responses from iwi, hapū and other māori organisations

Email or written responses were received from the five sources listed below. The originals of these responses have been supplied to EPA. The issues abstracted from those submissions are provided below, and are addressed in the application.

'Your email said, "Tests in Chile, their home country, show they only attack barberry species. No native plants would be at risk here." How can 'tests in Chile' give us confidence that 'no native plants would be at risk here'?'

'We are satisfied with your plan to develop the proposal in consultation with Ngai Tahu...our concerns will be similar...ensuring that our native flora and fauna are not threatened by the introduction of this species.'

'We have concerns over introduced species and the effects this can have given little or no supporting documentation to assist us in making an informed assessment.'

'Having read the information supplied and from other reading am happy that the trial takes place'

'Fully support any measures to protect the lands and natural fauna'

'Keep New Zealand clean of such elements'

Other relevant responses from Maori organisations to previous new organism applications

- How do potential ecosystem changes affect the mauri of the ngahere?
- Are there native species that could fill the role?
- Effects on ongoing management of cultural and natural resources by Māori – kaitiakitanga.... we need all the information in order to make an informed decision.
- What happens to the new organism's whakapapa when it is taken from its home, where it is a native species?
- Protocol to relocate the mauri of an agent
- What is the contingency should the population / if the agent looks for other prey?
- How will Māori be able to peer-review this work?
- Have other forms of intervention been investigated?
- What is the impact of not intervening?
- I would rather nothing like this was brought into the country.
- What is the history and success rate of biocontrols?
- Are there human health concerns involved?
- Will there be employment opportunities in the introduction?
- All introduced species have impact on the native flora and fauna.

- Request for reports on monitoring and analysis of this biocontrol.
- The benefits of (the target weed) on the landscape must be taken into account.
- While we did not bring (the weed) here, it is here now. So we have to address it. We have to think about what is best.
- If you don't have the money to monitor post-release, then you don't have the money for the project.
- What happens if at some point in the future we have to bring something else in to control the insects we are introducing?
- 'On a personal level I don't mind that biological controls are used to combat such as these. My reservations will be what potential impacts will they have on our native fauna/flora. Are there such already in our indigenous arsenal and if so can we bolster their numbers?'
- '... does not oppose these applications...but urges caution when introducing foreign organisms; blackberry/gorse, weasels/rabbits etc. come to mind.'
- 'We are aware these organisms are put through rigorous tests but sometimes many years pass before these things break out of their natural cycle and become further pests and equally as bad as their host plant.'
- 'I do not have a problem with your proposal; there are much worse things happening that I am dealing with.'
- 'If Māori resources are affected so are the people – loss of flora and fauna, loss of cultural identity, loss of clothing for Papatuanuku, loss of native vegetation, and increase of runoff if not filtered.'
- 'Te Taiao ki au, ki au te Taiao'
- 'Ongoing management by Māori of our cultural and natural resources relies on kaitiakitanga/protection. ...We must be certain of the potential impacts on our resources.'
- 'We see that both of these plant pests pose a threat to our native ecosystems and are happy for the release to go ahead. Containment or eradication in the north is preferable to actions later in the south.'
- 'We appreciate your communication on this matter; however, due to capacity issues we are unable to engage further with you on this issue.'
- 'Will the introduced species eradicate their hosts? If so, does this mean the introduced species will eventually die out once their hosts have been eradicated? If not, what will the introduced species achieve?'