



19 APR 2017

OIA17-0154

John Hill
Care of FYI website

Dear John Hill

EXTENSION OF TIME TO ANSWER OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 20 March 2017 regarding the following:

- 1) *Are the genetics based on the nectar or the pollen from the manuka flower*
- 2) *If the genetics are from the either the nectar or pollen of the flower of the manuka tree, have the *Leptospermum Scoparium* plants from different areas of the country been compared to ensure that the genetic markers that will be used are common to all areas. As you are aware Landcare Research have stated that each area have different genetics*
- 3) *If the genetic markers are going to be used as a country of origin statement, are the genetics tests able to be distinguish between Australian and New Zealand *Leptospermum Scoparium* species. The DNA marker is not to be used to support a country of origin statement.*
- 4) *Can the chemical tests distinguish between manuka and kanuka honey.*
- 5) *If the DNA test measures Pollen that has fallen into nectar on the flower, and/or pollen specifically targeted as a protein source by the bees, has research been done to determine how consistent the percent of manuka pollen collected in a hive is relative to the percent of manuka nectar?*
- 6) *Will the amount of pollen be wholly or mainly from Manuka for a honey that passes the manuka pollen DNA test?*
- 7) *Will there be a certificate issued by MPI for export be for either Monofloral manuka or multifloral manuka or both.*

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will not be able to respond within the timeframe set out in the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) because consultation necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the normal 20 working day time limit.

MPI will reply to your request by no later than 3 May 2017, earlier if possible.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to extend the time limit for responding to your request.

Yours sincerely


Steve Hathaway
Director, Biosecurity Science, Food Science & Risk Assessment

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