



OIA17-0154

03 MAY 2017

John Hill  
Care of FYI website

Dear John Hill

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 20 March 2017 relating to the following, with answers included;

- 1) Are the genetics based on the nectar or the pollen from the mānuka flower?  
Answer: The DNA marker that is part of the requirement for identifying mānuka honey is derived from the pollen, not the nectar.
- 2) If the genetics are from either the nectar or pollen of the flower of the mānuka 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.  
Answer: MPI collected *L. scoparium* plants from across New Zealand so we could take potential genetic variation into consideration.
- 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?  
Answer: The DNA marker is not to be used to support a country of origin statement.
- 4) Can the chemical tests distinguish between mānuka and kanuka honey?  
Answer: The chemical and DNA test are used in combination to distinguish mānuka honey from other honey types including kānuka.
- 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 mānuka pollen collected in a hive is relative to the percent of mānuka nectar?  
Answer: The DNA test does not relate to the percentage of mānuka pollen in a honey sample.

6) Will the amount of pollen be wholly or mainly from Mānuka for a honey that passes the mānuka pollen DNA test?

Answer: See above response to 5.

7) Will there be a certificate issued by MPI for export for either Monofloral mānuka or multifloral mānuka or both?

Answer: Yes. MPI will be able to issue an export certificate for honey that is labelled as mānuka honey (mono-floral or multifloral). Certification will be conditional upon the provision, in AP E-cert, of the relevant laboratory test results confirming that the honey meets the regulatory definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey.

Yours sincerely



Allan Kinsella

Director, Systems Audit, Assurance & Monitoring