Horticulture™
New Zealand
Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa

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New Zealand
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Celebrating 20 years
est. 2005

Annual Report

TO 31 MARCH 2026

Contents

Chair and Chief Executive Message

The 2025/26 year reinforced a simple reality: New Zealand horticulture is growing in a world that won't stand still or stop delivering shocks.

Across the year, the sector continued to deliver strong performance amid mounting and intersecting pressures - extreme weather events, biosecurity incursions, rising input costs and ongoing global volatility.

These pressures have been particularly acute for vegetable growers, who have faced further uncertainty following the closure of key processing operations, including McCain and Wattie's facilities. The loss of long-standing processing pathways has added to concerns about market access, regional employment and the resilience of New Zealand's domestic vegetable supply chain.

That volatility was brought into sharp focus in February 2026 with the Middle East conflict. For a war so far from our shores, we felt the ripple effects almost straight away.

Instability in global energy markets flowed quickly through to higher fuel prices, increased freight costs and renewed pressure on already stretched supply chains.

For a sector reliant on the timely movement of perishable goods, these shocks translated directly into margin pressure at the farmgate and across the value chain.

Yet horticulture is not defined by disruption. It is defined by how growers - and the wider sector - respond to it.

Over the past 12 months, growers up and down the country demonstrated hard work, adaptability and a commitment to producing high-quality nutritious food for New Zealanders and the world. That same determination is reflected across the wider system that supports them.

At Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ), our role is to ensure that effort is matched by systems, policy settings and support that enable long-term success for our growers.

A year of progress

Despite the volatility, the sector continued to grow.

Horticultural exports reached new record highs, with the Ministry for Primary Industries forecasting export revenue to rise to $9.2 billion in the year to June 2026. Strong global demand, alongside progress in markets, continues to underpin that growth.

A significant milestone was the conclusion of trade negotiations between New Zealand and India.

Improved access for products such as apples, kiwifruit, cherries, avocados and persimmons represents a long-term opportunity to strengthen resilience in a rapidly changing global trading environment.

In August 2025, HortNZ launched the roadmap for the Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan - a shift from ambition into implementation and a more co-ordinated approach to long-term growth. There is a lot of good work that has been completed and is currently underway that is driving progress towards the AHAP goals.

That same focus on practical progress is evident at the farm level. The Growing Change programme has been completed, with growers implementing freshwater farm plans that are driving measurable improvements in nutrient management, water use efficiency and on-farm environmental practices.

Importantly, this work is demonstrating that compliance does not need to come at the expense of productivity - and that well-designed systems can support both better environmental outcomes and commercial performance.

We are also seeing important structural shifts within the sector. The continued growth of Māori-owned land being converted into horticulture reflects both the long-term opportunity of the industry and the increasing role of Māori as leaders and investors in its future.

This year also marked HortNZ's 20th anniversary.

Two decades ago, HortNZ was established to bring together a diverse industry under a single voice.

Since then, it has helped shape many of the systems that underpin modern horticulture - from New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP) and the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme to co-ordinated responses to biosecurity incursions and major weather events.

Over that time, the sector itself has transformed into a globally competitive, export-focused industry recognised for its quality, innovation and sustainability.

The anniversary event at Parliament in December was not just a moment to reflect, but to acknowledge the collective effort of growers, leaders and partners - and to reinforce the importance of continuing to evolve at pace with the world around us.

Operating conditions under increasing pressure

While performance remains strong, the operating environment is becoming more complex and unpredictable for growers.

Extreme weather continued to shape the year. Cyclone Vaianu caused less damage than Cyclone Gabrielle, but significant disruption remained - from flooding in Nelson-Tasman to heavy rainfall across Northland, Bay of Plenty and the East Coast, alongside challenging conditions for growers.

These events reinforced the vulnerability of critical infrastructure, particularly rural transport networks.

Reliable access to markets remains critical for a sector producing perishable goods, and investment in resilient infrastructure continues to be a key priority.

That was underlined in research commissioned for the AHAP that revealed many growing regions depend on a single major route or packaging hub, creating vulnerabilities for perishable crops that must reach domestic and international consumers quickly and efficiently.

Biosecurity also remained front of mind. Responses to detections of the Oriental Fruit Fly and the emergence of the Yellow-Legged Hornet highlighted both the risks facing the sector and the importance of a coordinated, well-resourced robust national system.

At the same time, global instability including the ongoing conflict in the Middle East - continues to flow through into fuel prices, shipping availability, insurance costs and overall supply chain reliability.

For many growers, this has meant sustained pressure on margins despite strong top-line performance.

Advocacy focused on long-term system settings

In response, HortNZ strengthened its focus on the long-term settings needed to support a productive and resilient sector.

Our election manifesto set out clear priorities for government - including stronger biosecurity protection, improved access to crop protection tools, reduced regulatory duplication, secure water availability, climate adaptation settings, fair market settings, and investment in enabling infrastructure.

We also continued to advocate for recognition of horticulture as an essential sector, ensuring continuity of production during periods of disruption.

Access to modern crop protection tools remains a critical issue, and we have pushed for better regulatory alignment and more timely approval pathways.

We played an active role in the review of the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme, working with government and Pacific partners to ensure it remains effective, fair and sustainable.

Across the year, HortNZ made 53 submissions on issues ranging from resource management reform to biosecurity and workforce settings, while continuing to advocate for vegetable growing to be recognised as a permitted activity.

Building capability and celebrating excellence

People remain at the heart of the sector's future - and this year highlighted both the depth of talent and the importance of continued investment in capability.

The Young Grower of the Year competition once again showcased the next generation of leaders, culminating in a national final that brought together the best emerging talent from growing regions.

The 2025 winner, Phoebe Scherer, typified the capability, professionalism and leadership that defines the future of New Zealand horticulture.

Events like Young Grower are more than competitions - they are a visible reminder that the sector's future is already taking shape.

At the same time, the Horticulture Industry Awards recognised the growers, researchers and businesses whose dedication continues to lift standards across the industry.

These awards highlighted the breadth of contribution required to sustain a high-performing sector - from innovation and environmental stewardship through to leadership and workforce development.

HortNZ's Leadership Programme continues to build leadership capability, while industry training scholarships are strengthening the pipeline of skilled workers across the country.

We are grateful to the New Zealand Fruitgrowers Charitable Trust for its continued support of HortNZ initiatives, particularly in enabling leadership development and industry capability programmes.

We also continued to build capability at a governance level, with new appointments to the Board further strengthening our strategic oversight and future leadership pathways.

Ripeka Evans was appointed as an independent director, Kirstie Lovie was appointed as an associate director and Shaun Vickers, Simon Cook and Dermott Malley joined the board as grower elected directors.

Strengthening systems and assurance

Progress this year also extended to the systems that underpin trust in New Zealand horticulture.

NZGAP's selection of new assurance partners - the first comprehensive review in more than 15 years - ensures the programme continues to meet the highest standards of food safety, environmental performance and social responsibility.

A key focus ahead will be improving the digital experience for certified operators while maintaining international credibility and trust.

Looking back, and looking forward

Reflecting on 20 years since HortNZ was established, the evolution of the sector is clear.

From the development of NZGAP and the establishment of the RSE scheme, to responding to biosecurity threats and recovering from major events such as Cyclone Gabrielle and COVID-19, the industry has become more capable, more connected and more resilient.

Today, New Zealand horticulture is globally recognised not only for its productivity and export success, but for its innovation, sustainability credentials and ability to respond under pressure.

Every one of us at HortNZ is proud to serve a sector that continues to adapt, invest and grow in an increasingly complex world.

As that world becomes more volatile, the need for coherent, enabling and forward-looking policy settings becomes more urgent.

The future success of horticulture will depend on how well New Zealand responds - through investment, through partnership, and through a shared commitment to long-term food production capability.

To all growers and supply partners, it's been a privilege to serve you over the past 12 months.

Thank you for placing your trust in HortNZ.

Bernadine Guilleux
HortNZ Board Chair

Kate Scott
HortNZ Chief Executive

$5.3bn[$]
farmgate value

$2.55bn[*#]
domestic horticulture spend

$9.25bn[*#]
value of the horticulture industry value chain

4,300+
commercial fruit and vegetable growers in New Zealand

$6.70bn[*#]
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)

3,055[^]
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 (direct horticulture)

>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, Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ), New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (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 stand up for New Zealand growers in an ever-changing world.

We advocate strongly for growers regardless of size or growing system – we share our knowledge while being dedicated to helping growers thrive.

Our work is targeted and effective, delivering impact across five key areas in our sphere of control.

Shaping Sector Strategy

> HortNZ ensures there is a collective long-term vision for horticulture and the support to implement strategic initiatives.

Measure: HortNZ participated in 23 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, the 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 advocating for the interests of growers and the wider horticulture sector.

In 2025/26, HortNZ participated in several pan-primary sector groups focused on biosecurity, food safety, crop protection, resource management, adverse events, immigration, education and cross-sector leadership. Through this collaboration, we continued 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
- 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 to our strategic priorities through the Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan.

Strengthening horticulture through collaboration

Over the past year, HortNZ has been progressing a collaboration project (funded through AGMARDT's The Common Ground).

The project is focused on ensuring growers see greater value from every levy dollar by reducing duplication and directing more resource toward practical outcomes that protect margins, manage risk and support growth.

It recognises that crop identity must be protected, but at the same time, a more unified industry voice could create the scale and influence needed to secure real gains in areas such as water, biosecurity, labour, trade access, research and development and infrastructure.

Any future structure must remain grower-led, with clear accountability, levy-setting mandates and representation embedded from the outset.

HortNZ has heard from growers that they want a more unified voice to help address future challenges. Greater collaboration to match the sector's goal of doubling farmgate value will shape a stronger, more capable industry-good system. Taking ownership now means growers can be in control of their destiny - before change is forced upon the sector.

New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice

New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP) is the horticulture sector's primary on farm and supply chain assurance programme, owned by Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated on behalf of growers.

While governed by an independent NZGAP Committee reporting to the HortNZ Board, the programme continues to evolve to meet changing regulatory, market, and environmental expectations.

Over the past year, significant progress has been made to strengthen the resilience, credibility, and future readiness of the NZGAP system.

A major milestone was the completion of the first full review of certification bodies in more than 15 years. Following a competitive Request for Proposal process, AsureQuality and QCONZ were appointed as NZGAP certification bodies.

AsureQuality continues its long-standing role, while QCONZ has been onboarded as a new entrant. Transition planning has been carefully managed to ensure continuity of certification and confidence for growers and markets.

An ongoing review of the NZGAP programme has continued, with work progressing to assess alignment with Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) requirements and pathways to formal recognition. This work supports NZGAP's objective of maintaining relevance in both domestic and international markets while minimising duplication and cost for growers.

NZGAP, alongside the HortNZ policy team has continued close collaboration with the Ministry for Primary Industries, particularly in relation to the Food Act Improvement Plan.

This partnership is helping ensure NZGAP remains aligned with regulatory expectations and continues to be recognised as a trusted verification pathway under New Zealand's food regulatory framework.

Progress has been made on strengthening environmental assurance through the NZGAP Environment Management System (EMS).

New EMS standards and rules are being trialled through audits, with a strong focus on practicality and continuous improvement.

The EMS review remains focused on ensuring NZGAP is well prepared for Freshwater Farm Plan requirements and evolving freshwater regulations.

NZGAP alongside the HortNZ policy team, is working towards ensuring the EMS will be recognised by the new Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) to enable growers to meet regulatory obligations by being EMS registered.

Supporting these changes, work has begun on developing an improved NZGAP registration and renewal system. This will enhance the capture, storage, and reporting of data required for programme management, EMS oversight, and regulatory reporting, while also improving the experience for certified operators.

Looking forward, NZGAP has commenced the development of a strategic roadmap to explore the future of horticulture assurance. This work will engage growers, regulators, customers, and assurance partners to build a shared understanding of challenges and opportunities and to guide innovation across the assurance landscape.

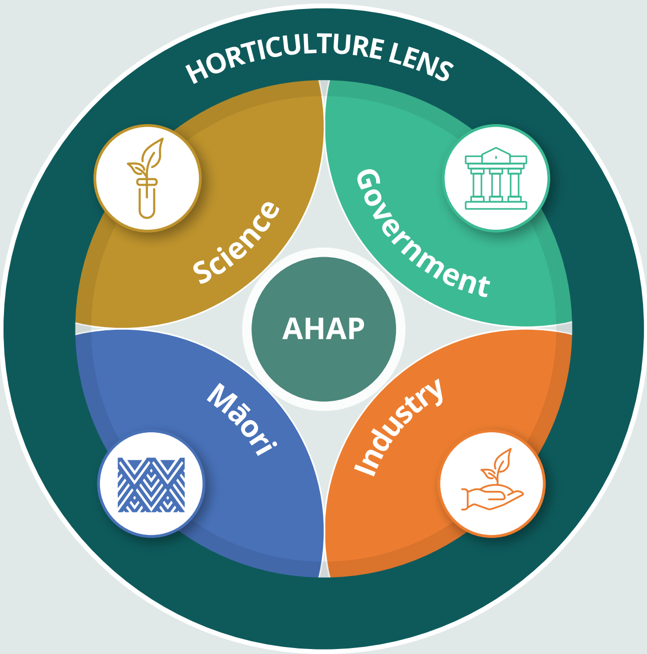
Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan

Launched in 2023, the Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan (AHAP) was developed collectively, with input from industry, government, Māori and research providers. The plan belongs to everyone involved in the New Zealand horticulture sector.

It provides a guiding compass to achieve the ambitious goal of doubling the farmgate value of horticultural production by 2035 in a way that improves prosperity for our people and protects the environment.

The plan creates efficiencies by allowing the partners to align efforts and investment towards common actions.

The partnership operating model is one of its key strengths. The partners are working together towards the shared goal of doubling the farmgate value of horticulture production.



2025/26 delivery has been strong

Achievements of note include:

- A group of six well connected individuals was stood up to provide guidance and oversight of the programme.
- We have continued to capture and celebrate aligned partner projects that deliver on AHAP outcomes.
- Three new tools have been developed that are available for the sector to use. One example is a snapshot that collates various sources of support (funding, expertise and more) relevant to horticulture.
- The AHAP programme team have been driving a suite of projects that benefit the sector, but do not have a natural lead. Some examples of recent wins include:
  - Taking 40+ officials from six different Government agencies into the field to hear directly from growers and take this knowledge back *"I'm more focused on keeping growers' needs front of mind and hopefully my work delivers practical solutions to some of their challenges."*
  - Research commissioned for the AHAP estimates the value and volume of produce being transported within New Zealand at each stage of the supply chain. This source of evidence can support regional and national infrastructure investment decisions and help the sector to advocate for a) resilience improvements for the infrastructure that is most vulnerable and b) rapid repair when critical infrastructure does fail.

Phase one implementation roadmap

The first implementation roadmap was launched at the 2025 New Zealand Horticulture Conference.

It sets out what partner entities will do in the next three years to help achieve sustainable sector growth.

Phase one focuses on the critical *foundations* for New Zealand horticulture.

If this outcome is not achieved, it will be difficult to maintain horticulture productivity, volume and/or value over time. Government departments and industry parties lead the majority of the 52 phase one actions.

Future phases will focus more heavily on actions critical to grow farmgate value in the next decade (i.e. increases profit, reduces cost, increases productivity, and allows horticulture to expand) and actions critical for a future-fit sector (i.e. increases social license to grow, diversifies income streams, generates value add, demonstrated innovation, encourages best practice adoption, and makes the sector more attractive).

AHAP decade of delivery 2025-2035

Phase 1 implementation roadmap 2025-2027

Phase 2 implementation roadmap

Phase 3 implementation roadmap

This implementation roadmap is a valuable tool to hold each other accountable and ensure the partnership is delivering for the horticulture sector.

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 53 submissions.

Environment policy

Enabling food supply and cutting red tape – resource management reform

This year, HortNZ continued to advocate for growers through resource management reform.

In July 2025, HortNZ submitted on a suite of nine pieces of national direction, including a thorough submission outlining the case for national direction for commercial vegetable growing, including the importance of vegetable growing for domestic food supply and the need to resolve unworkable regional rules.

In February, HortNZ submitted on the National Environment Bill and the Planning Bill, which were introduced to replace the Resource Management Act 1991. HortNZ advocated for a system with less red tape, less duplication and a lower cost for participation while achieving positive environmental outcomes.

Local government reform

HortNZ submitted on the Government's proposal to simplify local government. HortNZ's submission focussed on the need for more careful consideration of local government reform timing alongside resource management reform, ensuring rural representation and democratic processes are not eroded, and ensuring the right expertise is available to guide reforms.

Energy, natural hazards and climate change

HortNZ submitted on the national fuel security plan, a long-term insight briefing on building resilience to hazards, and the geothermal strategy. We advocated for the fundamental importance of food supply to national wellbeing in times of disruption, whether geopolitical or adverse weather events. We called for food supply chains to be recognised as critical lifelines, and our language was picked up by Government in the final version of the long-term insights briefing. HortNZ continued to call for the Government to finish their national energy plan and to include forecasts for energy generation the country will need into the future and how we'll get there, rather than planning ad-hoc for single sources of generation.

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, we opposed 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, we supported focusing growth within existing urban centres and emphasised the importance of recognising rural needs, protecting highly productive land for primary production, and enabling climate adaptation. Similarly, in Auckland, HortNZ urged 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, HortNZ highlighted the region's excellent climate and soils for horticulture, stressing the need for careful spatial planning to balance housing growth with food production. HortNZ emphasised 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 Environment Court processes for water plans in Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Waikato, and in district plan hearings in Selwyn, Timaru, Waimakariri, Napier and the Far North.

Progress on regional and district planning work has been constrained by Government stop work orders linked to ongoing resource management reform. However, HortNZ continues to work with district and regional councils as they consider the implications of wider reform.

Business, Labour, Education and Commercial Policy

Throughout the year, HortNZ played an active role in advocating on immigration, business, and commercial policy issues that are critical to the success of the horticulture sector. Through ongoing consultation with officials, ministers, and key agencies, 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.

Workforce and immigration policy

HortNZ submitted on and appeared before the Select Committee on the Immigration (Fiscal Sustainability and System Integrity) Amendment Bill. We supported stronger measures to address migrant exploitation while opposing the proposed employment levy. HortNZ also worked closely with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment officials on seasonal workforce policy, including advocating for additional roles to be included in the Global Workforce Seasonal Visa and ensuring Accredited Employer Work Visa settings remain practical and fit for purpose for horticulture employers.

Health and safety reform

HortNZ submitted on and appeared before the Select Committee on the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill. We supported the Bill's intent to simplify obligations for smaller businesses while seeking clearer guidance for seasonal industries like horticulture. Following WorkSafe's horticulture inspections last year, HortNZ also worked with WorkSafe to review the findings. We jointly held an information session for growers, where inspection outcomes were explained and growers had the opportunity to ask questions directly of the inspectorate.

Grocery sector reform

HortNZ played an active role in the review of the Grocery Supply Code and related competition law reforms. We advocated for stronger protections where unfair supermarket practices remain, particularly around retailer-imposed crate and pallet requirements that reduce grower choice and increase costs. HortNZ submitted on the Commerce (Promoting Competition and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, supporting measures to strengthen grower bargaining power and improve protections against unfair treatment in concentrated markets. Throughout the year, HortNZ worked closely with the Commerce Commission to press for stronger and more effective enforcement of the Grocery Supply Code and ensure the Commission is meeting its obligations.

Levy policy

In response to Inland Revenue's consultation on not-for-profit taxation, HortNZ successfully argued that commodity levies should remain excluded from the definition of membership subscriptions and therefore not be subject to income tax. HortNZ responded to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's proposal to allow multi-tiered levy rates under the Commodity Levies Act. We took a neutral position as part of a wider industry approach while raising concerns about fairness, equity, and revenue stability for growers. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment acknowledged the key issues including those highlighted by HortNZ and decided not to proceed with the proposal.

Vocational education reform

HortNZ was requested to present to the Education and Workforce Select Committee on our submission on the Education and Training (Vocational Education and Training System) Amendment Bill, which led to confirmation that the new Industry Skills Board will be able to write programmes alongside qualification development which will reduce time to market for new qualifications.

HortNZ has made several submissions related to the establishment of the new standard setting body called the Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board, funding for tertiary education, and is contributing alongside other industry groups to form a new industry owned Private Training Establishment (PTE) that will replace the food and fibre work-based learning unit that was part of the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST) trading as Primary ITO.

Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme

Whānau Moana Nui pilot

Whānau Moana Nui is an industry-led initiative that includes seven growers and four Pacific partners who have agreed to co-design an employer-led performance tier programme that responds to grower, worker and sending country needs. Over the last 18 months, HortNZ has worked closely with key partners to ensure the Whānau Moana Nui framework demonstrates a credible quality assurance system that promotes safe, sustainable, and responsible employment practices.

Ongoing work includes the development of tools to enable growers to support their workers adapt and thrive in their working environments while away from their families and communities.

HortNZ has engaged with the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment to ensure officials are aware of and understand the pilot and its objectives.

Recognised Seasonal Employer related work

RSE workers are vital to growers' success and the ongoing viability of New Zealand's horticulture sector. In this financial year, a total of 174 RSE employers collectively employ just over 17,000 RSE workers from across the Pacific and Timor Leste. These workers play a critical role in meeting seasonal labour demands, supporting productivity and export performance, and strengthening enduring partnerships between New Zealand growers and labour sending countries. This underscores the importance of developing the Whānau Moana Nui pilot to ensure there is appropriate recognition of horticulture growers who continue to invest in their RSE workforce and demonstrate best practice employment, pastoral care, and community integration. Aligning Whānau Moana Nui with the RSE scheme provides an opportunity to acknowledge responsible employers, reduce duplication across settings by sharing best practice, and strengthening worker wellbeing support while maintaining the integrity and sustainability of the RSE programme.

The RSE policy review has been a significant focus for both HortNZ and government following the Immigration Minister's announcement in August 2025, confirming the review would be prioritised. In this context, HortNZ has continued to play a lead advocacy role for growers.

Employers were surveyed in late 2025 to establish key priorities. These were then advocated for in the policy review and working groups were established to develop position papers, and propose practical, business focused solutions for submission to the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment.

HortNZ engaged with sending countries to ensure they were informed and involved, reflecting an employer-led, partnership-based approach.

HortNZ is hopeful that this process will help the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment come up with RSE policy positions that will have an enduring and positive impact for growers.

HortNZ also led regional meetings in Nelson, Central Otago and Horowhenua.

HortNZ works collaboratively with 11 Regional Labour Governance Group chairs through facilitated monthly meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to hear about what is working well and any challenges employers are encountering. Based on shared insights, HortNZ is then in a better position to advocate practical solutions with industry bodies and to Government. The Regional Labour Governance Group chairs also played a key role in shaping the first closed employer and sending country forum held at the 2025 New Zealand Horticulture Conference (which incorporated the RSE Conference).

This forum emphasised the importance of stronger collaboration between employers and sending countries to identify key issues and develop solutions that not only address optional challenges but genuinely support the RSE triple win approach. Outcomes from the forum have been used to guide work that employers can influence, contributing to continuous improvement of the RSE scheme.

HortNZ was part of the New Zealand RSE delegation at the 2025 Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM) in the Solomon Islands. The RSE and Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) employer forum focused on solutions to challenges related to recruitment processes, worker reintegration, and building effective partnerships between Labour Sending Units and employers. The PLMAM provides a valuable platform for sending and receiving countries to work together, share lessons learned, and make practical commitments to fair recruitment and improved better outcomes for workers and their families.

Risk Policy

The HortNZ Risk Policy team continues to actively advocate for risk proportionate and workable regulatory settings. Notable areas of advocacy are as follows:

Biosecurity: Shift to strategic influence

HortNZ has shifted to strategic engagement with the Ministry for Primary Industries to influence the future direction of the biosecurity system. In the process, we stepped back from operational biosecurity activities and technical meetings within the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) framework, while maintaining our influence at the governance level.

Our submission on the Biosecurity Act Amendment Bill, GIA arrangements, and involvement in the Biosecurity Systems Action Plan is to ensure that grower concerns are heard and impact is minimised. HortNZ is also an active participant in MPI's Plant Import Systems Reform project to ensure strong biosecurity integrity while enabling faster, lower-cost access to plant material. We advocated that evidence-informed decision-making be explicitly stated as a core element of the approach to the biosecurity system.

Crop protection: Advancing access through regulatory harmonisation

HortNZ has been tracking implementation of the 16 recommendations from the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review and engaging with Government to support progress in improving the system, including making submissions on targeted consultations on the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act (ACVM) and Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) Amendment Bills.

HortNZ has also leveraged key recommendations - such as greater use of international regulator assessments and harmonisation of requirements - to increase access to crop protection tools. This has included successfully advocating for amendments in the ACVM Bill to enable the use of international regulator assessments for product applications. HortNZ has also been working with ACVM to allow certain crops to adopt international maximum residue limits.

Alongside this, HortNZ continues to advocate for greater prioritisation of approvals for new products over reassessment of existing ones and to highlight to the EPA the risks of older tools being phased out without viable replacements.

Food safety: Reducing duplication and compliance burden

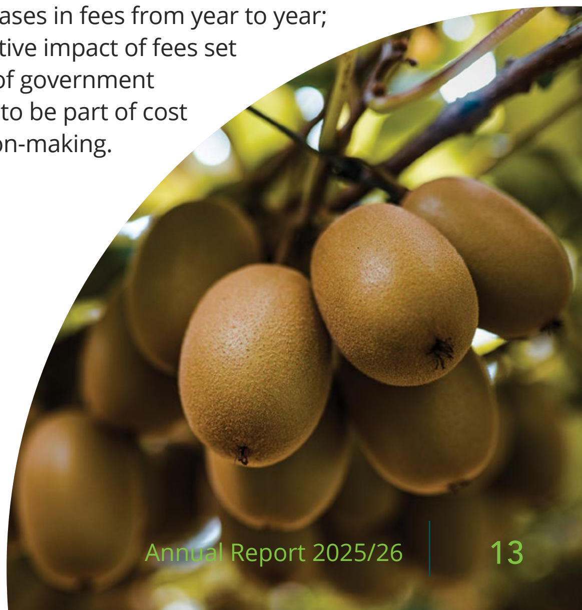
HortNZ is engaging with New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) to promote greater recognition of its food safety and assurance schemes within regulatory systems. Following the October 2025 announcement of the Food Act Improvement Programme, which aims to reduce compliance burden and cost, the programme includes streamlining verification and registration requirements between the Food Act and industry schemes. This represents a significant win for HortNZ after sustained advocacy on duplication of requirements affecting the horticulture sector. HortNZ will continue to work with NZFS as to what improvements can be put in place quickly.

In addition, the organics sector is undergoing change as the Ministry for Primary Industries prepares to implement the Organic Products and Production Act in 2027, with ongoing consultation on supporting rules and regulations. This year, HortNZ made two submissions advocating for flexibility, recognition of existing industry schemes, alignment of auditing requirements, and practical guidance and support for growers during implementation.

Cost recovery: Ensuring transparency and fairness for growers

Cost recovery by government agencies continues to increase cost for growers. This year, HortNZ has submitted on five proposals: new electronic trade certification, increases to phytosanitary certification fees, renewals of trade name agricultural chemicals, and two on the levy under the new Organics Act.

These submissions advocate that charges must be reasonable, proportionate, and clearly justified, with regulators providing transparency on how fees are set, spent, and the services delivered. All cost recovery should be subject to regular reviews to avoid sudden significant increases in fees from year to year; and the cumulative impact of fees set across a range of government agencies needs to be part of cost recovery decision-making.



Translating Sector Wide Change

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

Measure: HortNZ hosted three Horticulture Industry Forum events presenting on a range of topics of interest for the sector. In addition, HortNZ ran five Growing Change workshops.

HortNZ facilitated a number of grower extension activities, visits and other activity through key projects.

A Lighter Touch

A Lighter Touch (ALT) is a seven-year industry and government partnership supporting New Zealand growers to shift from agrichemical reliance to more integrated, sustainable crop protection practices.

Involving horticulture, arable and viticulture, this $27 million collaborative programme is funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries, Horticulture New Zealand, 13 sector groups, two crop protection companies and a merchant partner

ALT is now entering its final year, with an end date of March 2027. It has more than 55 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 component, along with supporting sector groups to extend knowledge and resources to drive their adoption by growers.

In the past year, three significant pieces of work with cross-sector benefits have focused on the regulatory pathway for new crop protection products, effective extension of biological crop protection solutions, and resistance management.

ALT's regulatory project aimed to facilitate tailored changes to the regulatory pathway in order to help growers gain access to more biological crop protection options. A review of international regulatory processes for registering these products was completed, generating recommendations for New Zealand regulators to consider. These aligned with recommendations from the Ministry of Regulation review, and ALT is continuing to work with the Environmental Protection Authority and New Zealand Food Safety, responsible for Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines, to support them in implementing these recommendations.

A Lighter Touch also completed a project centered on awareness and integration of biological products into crop protection programmes. This project focused on addressing globally identified barriers to grower adoption - specifically the importance of having good extension programmes sharing knowledge and technical advice on use and integration of biologicals. It resulted in the delivery of a series of workshops upskilling those working in extension in ALT sectors, production of extension resources to support extension planning and delivery, and the establishment of an extension Community of Practice.

Demonstration of new practices and extending knowledge to support grower adoption is a key focus of A Lighter Touch, like the summerfruit understory field day in Central Otago.

Attendees at a Vegetables New Zealand-ALT field day hosted at Woodhaven Gardens learn how incorporating annual flower strips into vegetable farm systems can support pest control.

Developing resistance was one of the drivers behind A Lighter Touch, meaning industry good practice of resistance management is a key priority. A Lighter Touch has brought together scientists, crop protection companies, and sector groups to develop a coordinated approach to resistance management. This has included updating strategies used to guide best practice, developing consistent, more user-friendly templates, mapping resistance surveillance being undertaken across various sectors, and producing education resources for growers and advisors.

Regional representative pilot

HortNZ invested levy funds in a two year pilot employing four Regional Representatives (0.5 FTE) to strengthen on the ground support across key growing regions as its contribution to the AHAP.

The roles covered:

- Northland/Auckland/Waikato
- Tairāwhiti Gisborne
- Lower North and Upper South Islands
- Central Otago and Canterbury.

Positive feedback from growers demonstrated the effectiveness of a dedicated local presence, supporting improved engagement, industry-led opportunities and resolutions.

The pilot is now transitioning to business as usual, with an additional Regional Representative being appointed to focus on Canterbury, recognising the scale of the region.

Regional Representatives support growers nationwide through meetings, workshops, and information sharing - strengthening two way communication between growers, HortNZ, and the wider horticulture sector.

Integrated Catchment Management Project (ICMP)

Te Tautara o Pukekohe Trust administers a $5.65m Essential Freshwater Fund grant to deliver 11 priority projects under the Te Ora o te Wai Pukekohe Action Plan.

Four projects are led by the horticulture sector, reflecting Pukekohe's importance as a key vegetable growing region, with HortNZ providing project support. Project delivery is now entering the final quarter of activity, with all projects scheduled to conclude in June 2026.

Key initiatives for the horticulture led projects include the Vegetable Industry Centre of Excellence (VICE), crop stacking trials, sediment management interventions, and extension of the SVS Nitrogen Decision Support Tool.

As projects near completion, environmental and practice change outcomes are beginning to emerge, positioning the programme to deliver lasting benefits to growers beyond the funding period.

Grow Home Safe

Safety II Through a Cultural Competency Lens - A ground-breaking initiative, led by HortNZ and funded by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), has shown how integrating cultural insights with contemporary safety practices can lead to safer and more collaborative workplaces.

The learnings from the project have demonstrated that the approaches used improved the safety and welfare of workers by giving them a voice and a shared responsibility in making safety improvements. Organisations benefited from team collaboration to uncover opportunities for operational improvements.

Complimentary Safety II training workshops were delivered across six regions with over 80 growers attending throughout the year demonstrating how Safety II can strengthen pastoral care for workers.

Growing Change

The Growing Change programme finished on 31 March 2026, achieving its objectives to increase adoption of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) through freshwater farm plans and the freshwater micro-credential.

Ten catchment regions with higher freshwater risks were supported: Waimea, Manawatu/Horowhenua, Ohakune, Pukekohe/Waikato, Selwyn, Central Otago, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Northland, and the Bay of Plenty. Through Growing Change, 228 growers completed their GAP-Farm Environment Plan (FEP) to comply with freshwater farm plans, covering over 50,000 hectares.

Whilst central government continues finalising the resource management reforms, the process for the recognition of industry assurance programmes like NZGAP to deliver audited and certified freshwater farm plans is being developed in collaboration with the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT). The intention being that growers who have participated in Growing Change and completed their NZGAP EMS add-on will be able to use this same assurance system to certify their freshwater farm plans.

Since the development of the micro-credential "Assess and manage risks to freshwater from horticultural production", Growing Change has funded 121 enrolments, with 55 successfully completing the course through training providers Fruition and Primary ITO. Courses will continue to run with the conclusion of Growing Change.

Growing Change has produced a series of videos on mātauranga in commercial growing practices, including freshwater. Most of the videos feature a growing operation that is Māori-owned (either by whānau or iwi), and some feature growers that have a relationship with their local iwi and Māori landowners. These capture growers who have implemented sustainable practices, in line with Te Ao Māori, to demonstrate the integration of Mātauranga Māori and freshwater practices in commercial growing.

Focus area	Metric	Target	Actuals (31 March 2026)
On-farm and other restoration activities	Number of Farm Environment Plans completed	85	228
	Area (ha) of works covered by Farm Environment Plans completed ***Total land (not just productive)**	37,500	51,444
	Area (ha) of works covered by Farm Environment Plans completed ***Productive land only (inc. lease)**		41,107
Training	Number of people receiving formal education and training (tertiary, NZQA)	150	121
	Number of people receiving formal training (not NZQA)	61	361
	Number of people receiving informal training (on-the-job)	183	347

Telling the Horticulture Story

HortNZ tells the horticulture story to celebrate our successes and elevate support for growers.

Measure: HortNZ published 82 media releases and stories on the website. We issued a weekly email newsletter and a monthly RSE employer newsletter and published a total of 11 magazines.

Over the past year, HortNZ has moved from using Mailchimp as its newsletter tool to HubSpot (our new Client Relationship Management tool). This has resulted in a tidy up of the newsletter subscriber database with it now reaching over 4,000 subscribers. Our newsletter channel is complemented by electronic direct emails (EDMs) direct to specific audiences, our website and social media channels – LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.

In June 2025, we attended National Fieldays at Mystery Creek. We utilised this opportunity to promote horticulture, careers and to network. We shared our main stand once again with sector partners New Zealand Apples and Pears, Summerfruit New Zealand and Potatoes New Zealand.

We secured interviews with a number of media outlets throughout the year to further elevate and tell the horticulture story. Media interviews were secured with local, national and Māori channels, both digital and online. This year also saw us tapping into media outlet podcast channels; a channel that we are keen to grow.

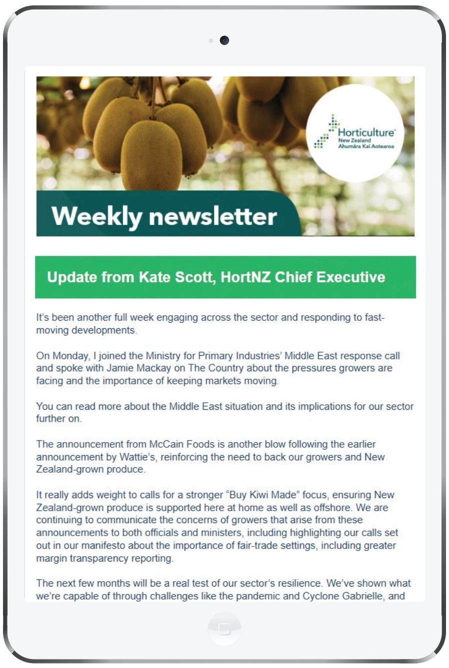
Taste the Yakka campaign

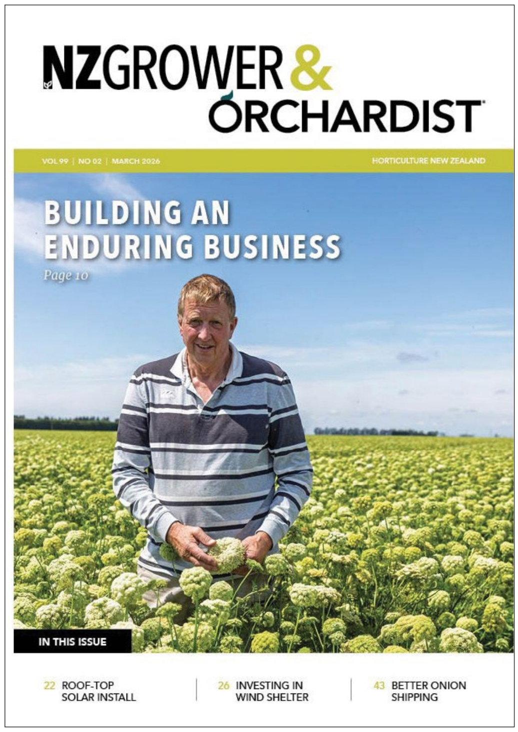
Building on our first public social licence campaign last year, we revived the campaign with a more action-oriented approach towards its original purpose. The follow-up campaign generated 1021 pledges, but more significantly, it served as a launching pad for something new for HortNZ – a public submission drive to support the National Direction for Vegetables.

We were able to use our new Client Relationship Management tool to set up an automated process for the public to make a submission directly to the Ministry for the Environment, which generated 357 completed submission forms.

Artificial intelligence

HortNZ was successful in obtaining Amazon Web Services funding (USD 40,000) to investigate artificial intelligence as a mechanism for improving growers access to research and industry information.





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 Conference (which included the Recognised Seasonal Employer Conference and the Horticulture Conference) in Wellington. HortNZ supported seven regional Young Grower competitions and hosted the national Young Grower final in Canterbury. Forty-nine people engaged with development opportunities such as the leadership programme and scholarships provided by HortNZ.

New Zealand Horticulture Conference

Over 900 people attended the annual New Zealand Horticulture Conference held in Wellington. The event brought together growers, industry leaders, policymakers and service providers from across the horticulture sector.

The programme included the RSE Conference, which offered content for employers and businesses involved in the scheme.

The Horticulture Conference provided valuable insights into the issues that matter most to growers - innovation and sustainability to workforce development and succession.

A key focus of the event was the launch of the Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan Implementation Roadmap, setting out the priorities for Phase One (2025-2027).

Conference speakers included Hon. Nicola Grigg, Associate Minister of Agriculture (Horticulture), Hon. Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance and Economic Growth and Hon Erica Stanfrord, Minister of Immigration.

Also on the programme were James Kilty, CEO of Transpower, Sara Meymand from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Andrew Gilman from Zespri, economist Shamubeel Eaqub, Con Williams from Craigmore Sustainables and Philip Pryor, a succession specialist.

The Ahuwhenua Trophy Excellence in Māori Horticulture was launched at the Industry Awards and Gala Dinner (on day two of the conference).

Young Grower of the Year

HortNZ was pleased to again support the Young Grower of the Year regional finals - it was great to welcome Canterbury back into the competition and host the national final at Lincoln University in Canterbury in September.

Seven young horticultural workers were finalists in the 2025 national Young Grower of the Year competition.

The finalists, along with the many young growers who competed in the regional competitions, epitomised the skill, passion and commitment of the talented people across our sector.

2025 finalists:

- Phoebe Scherer, Bay of Plenty
- Steven Rink, Canterbury
- Lydia Goodman, Central Otago
- Rhiannon Morrell, Gisborne
- Sam Carter, Hawke's Bay
- Amelia Marsden, Nelson
- Jack Haddon, Pukekohe

Bay of Plenty technical lab manager Phoebe Scherer won the coveted 2025 Young Grower national title.

Phoebe enjoyed stepping up to the many challenges the competition offered.

The science and technical modules were her 'safe space' but others she found more challenging, like the machinery section. It was the biggest piece of equipment she had ever stepped into.

Phoebe gained an evolutionary biology degree and did an OE before taking a job in the kiwifruit industry in Tauranga over seven years ago.

That led to a laboratory job and ongoing career progression. She now works at Apata, a specialist service provider for New Zealand kiwifruit and avocado growers.

The Young Grower completion celebrates the success of young people in the industry as well as encouraging others to consider a career in horticulture. It plays an important role in raising awareness of the many career and personal development opportunities across the horticulture sector.

Phoebe Scherer 2025 Young Grower of the Year

2025 Young Grower of the Year finalists

Industry Awards

> Research and healthcare initiatives, leadership and dedication to the sector were all recognised at the 2025 Horticulture Industry Awards.

Five awards were presented at the New Zealand Horticulture Industry Awards and Gala Dinner in Wellington in August - awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to commercial fruit and vegetable growing in New Zealand.

Andrew Fenton 2025 winner of the Bledisloe Cup

Horticulture Bledisloe Cup

The Horticulture Bledisloe Cup, the premium award for the horticulture industry was awarded to Andrew Fenton, chair of the New Zealand Fruitgrowers Federation and chair of the New Zealand Fruitgrowers Charitable Trust, which he has served on since 2003.

The cup is awarded to a person who has made an outstanding and meritorious contribution to the New Zealand horticulture industry.

For more than five decades, Andrew has brought his passion, experience, a practical common-sense approach and constructive and positive team attitude to the sector.

His interest in industry good matters, in kiwifruit and the wider horticulture industry has benefited all growers. He enjoys making a leadership contribution to industry progress and advocacy.

Daniel Kenna 2025 President's Trophy winner

President's Trophy

The President's Trophy recognises a person showing promise in a horticulture industry-based business and/or leadership. In 2025 this was presented to Daniel Kenna.

In a relatively short time in the sector, Daniel an orchard manager and researcher with Katikati-based KWKIWI, has made a significant contribution in the fields of research, community, innovation and sustainability.

Daniel is co-chair of Future Farmers New Zealand and has established, in partnership with Zespri, the ION Impact Orchard Network programme, which is designed to develop, improve and demonstrate sustainable and effective orchard practices.

Sustainable Innovation Award

The Sustainable Innovation Award was presented to Gordon Skipage and Pranoy Pal of Te Puke-based Trevelyan Pack and Cool Ltd.

The award celebrates those who are developing, or have developed, technologies, and innovation or undertaken research that increased productivity, profitability, or environmental sustainability in the horticulture sector.

Gordon, Trevelyan's head of technical, and Pranoy, kiwifruit technical manager, are working with research partners conducting regenerative agriculture trials to provide evidence-based knowledge for the New Zealand kiwifruit industry.

This is laying the groundwork for further research that can help the industry move towards sustainable, low-carbon production and climate resilience.

Manaaki Award

The Manaaki Award was awarded to a cross-collaborative team comprising T&G Global, Hastings Health Centre and the OrbitProtect/nib NZ.

It recognises a person, group or organisation that has risen beyond the call of duty to support employers and workers, and recognises the positive impact an act of service has had on employers, workers, the community and the whole RSE scheme.

Working together in 2024, the team established the RSE satellite health clinic at T&G's Whakatu packhouse in Hawke's Bay - accessible to all RSE workers in the region.

Horticulture New Zealand Life Member Award

The Horticulture New Zealand Life Member Award was awarded to Stewart Burns, managing director of the Camelot Fresh Fruit Company in Hastings and a member of the Summerfruit NZ board of directors since 2014.

This award recognises distinguished and honourable service to horticulture.

Stewart is a strong supporter of broader sector development and grower representation and is known for sharing his knowledge and fostering collaboration among growers.

He has also introduced new orchard techniques, trialled emerging fruit varieties, and is always ready to engage with others in the industry to improve outcomes.

Pranoy Pal 2025 joint winner of the Sustainable Innovation Award (absent Gordon Skipage)

Heather Kean, T&G Global accepting the 2025 Maanaki Award

Stewart Burns 2025 Life Member Award

Leadership programme participants 2025

Promoting Horticulture as a Career

Leadership development

The HortNZ leadership programme was delivered with 16 participants, including 12 scholarship recipients who rated both phases of the programme as either excellent or very good.

The emerging leadership micro-credential was piloted and is now commercially available through Fruition Horticulture. Aligning the previously informal course to the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework has led to providers being able to access Tertiary Education Commission funding reducing the cost to learners by 50%.

HortNZ would like to thank the New Zealand Fruitgrowers Charitable Trust, which has contributed financially to both leadership development initiatives and T&G for hosting phase one of the leadership programme in Auckland.

Scholarships and sponsorship

HortNZ continued to offer trades training, undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships targeting leaders in studies related to horticulture with 20, 15, and 2 scholarships awarded respectively. These scholarships received partial financial support from New Zealand Fruitgrowers Charitable Trust and/or the Horticentre Charitable Trust.

HortNZ sponsors Agribusiness in Schools, a programme offered in secondary schools that aims to reposition agribusiness as a high-value academic pathway for the country's most capable students. A key element of the programme is support for agri- teachers. In the 2025 teacher evaluation, the vast majority (95.2%) felt well supported when using Agribusiness Achievement Standards, and this has had a significant positive impact on teaching practice for 90.5% of respondents.

Horticulture as a career

HortNZ continues to lead the horticulture industry's presence at all the major careers expos across New Zealand and have a presence in approximately 20 job seeker hotspots through the provision of accessible digital content in school career rooms, libraries, and youth hubs. This activity is partially funded by New Zealand Fruitgrowers Charitable Trust.

HortNZ has partnered with the Ministry of Social Development to develop a virtual reality course that can be used as an educational tool for people looking at horticulture as a career. The course will be used in schools, at events, and by the Ministry of Social Development to give new entrants an indication of what to expect if they're employed in an orchard, vegetable operation, or packhouse.

The GoHort website has been refreshed in partnership with product groups as a resource for those looking for information and resources about training, education, and careers in horticulture.

Long-term capability initiatives

HortNZ and New Zealand Fruitgrowers Charitable Trust have partnered on a five-year programme of work that focusses on long-term capability development in the formal education system. One of these initiatives is the Horticulture Qualifications and Standards Review (NZQA Levels 2-6).

Consultation on proposal to replace the National Certificate of Educational Achievement

As part of the government proposal to replace the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) was a change to Years 11-13 subjects for the National Curriculum that would remove Agricultural and Horticultural Science and Agribusiness as an academic subject. Advocacy from across the food and fibre sector including HortNZ, led to the Government reversing this decision.

Transition from ANZISC to NOL

The structure and job roles HortNZ supplied to Statistics NZ's have been added to the new National Occupation List (NOL) which will replace the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification Codes (ANZISC) and influence immigration and tertiary education funding entitlements.

Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
31 March 2026

Entity Information

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026

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 is an incorporated Society funded by a levy under the Commodity Levies (Vegetable and Fruit) Order 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 Horticulture New Zealand including a central grower registration system.

Strategic Priority	Measure	2025/26 Outcome	2024/25 Outcome
Shaping Sector Strategy 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: • 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.	The number of pan-sector working groups or governance groups that HortNZ participated in.	HortNZ participated in 23 pan-sector working groups or governance groups.	HortNZ participated in 18 pan-sector working groups or governance groups.
Proactively Influencing Policy 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: • Responding to government and local council consultations.	The number of submissions lodged by HortNZ.	HortNZ lodged 53 submissions	HortNZ lodged 49 submissions
Telling the Horticulture Story We delivered on telling the horticulture story to elevate support for growing by: • Conveying what the opportunities are and what it takes to grow good food.	Number of HortNZ media releases published and the number of media requests for comment.	• HortNZ published 82 media releases/stories on the HortNZ website. • Produced eleven issues of NZGrower & Orchardist. • Issued a weekly newsletter.	HortNZ published 72 media releases/stories on the HortNZ website. There were two issues each of the NZGrower and The Orchardist magazines, three issues of a combined head-to-tail magazine, three issues of a combined magazine with an additional fruit, and an additional vegetable grower section, and two magazines with a combined title. We also issued a weekly email newsletter.
Translating Sector Wide Change We delivered on translating sector wide change to ensure growers and rural professionals were aware of newly implemented policy, regulations and requirements by: • Providing growers and rural professionals with up-to-date, relevant and reliable information in an integrated way.	The number of industry information sharing and upskilling events e.g. training sessions/ workshops held by HortNZ.	HortNZ hosted: • Three Horticulture Industry Forums presenting on a range of topics. • Five Growing Change workshops.	HortNZ hosted: • Three Horticulture Industry Forum events presenting on a range of topics of interest for the sector. • Five Growing Change workshops.
Facilitating Grower Connections We delivered on facilitated grower connections to enable sector wide information sharing, celebrating success, networking and attracting and developing talent by: • Hosting events for growers.	Number of events held by HortNZ.	• HortNZ held the New Zealand Horticulture Conference (which included the Horticulture Conference and RSE Conference). • HortNZ supported seven Young Grower competitions and hosted the national final.	• HortNZ held the Horticulture and RSE Conferences. • HortNZ supported six Young Grower competitions and hosted the national final.
• Attracting and developing talent.	Number of people engaging with HortNZ development opportunities.	HortNZ awarded: • HortNZ awarded 49 scholarships. • HortNZ Leadership Programme was delivered with 16 participants.	• HortNZ awarded 63 scholarships. • Eighteen participants took part in the HortNZ Leadership Programme pilot.

Approval of Financial Report

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026.

APPROVED

Bernadine Guilleux
HortNZ Board Chair
30 June 2026

Kate Scott
HortNZ Chief Executive
30 June 2026

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Account	Notes	2026	2025
Revenue			
Horticulture New Zealand - Core Activity		12,495,078	11,076,519
New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP)		1,417,528	1,491,360
Vegetable Research & Innovation Board		242,514	372,313
Vegetables.co.nz			3,498
Process Vegetables New Zealand		465,733	549,428
SFFF - A Lighter Touch		3,804,065	4,971,007
Total Revenue	**25**	**18,424,919**	**18,464,126**
Expenses			
Horticulture New Zealand - Core Activity		11,296,080	9,844,282
New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP)		1,504,099	1,476,925
Vegetable Research & Innovation Board		256,534	280,097
Vegetables.co.nz			215,627
Process Vegetables New Zealand		328,257	439,681
SFFF - A Lighter Touch		4,271,107	4,848,012
Total Expenses	**25**	**17,656,077**	**17,104,624**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		**768,842**	**1,359,501**
Tax Expense	**10**	31,682	127,649
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year after Tax		**737,160**	**1,231,852**

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statement and refer to audit report.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Accumulated Funds 2026	Notes	Opening Balance	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Movements in Reserves	Closing Balance
Horticulture New Zealand	**17**	5,983,938	1,167,316	(134,388)	7,016,866
New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP)		747,079	(86,571)	67,786	728,294
Vegetable Research & Innovation Board		189,595	(14,020)	(33,783)	141,792
Process Vegetables New Zealand		695,166	137,476	(191,498)	641,144
SFFF - A Lighter Touch		1,962,546	(467,042)	291,882	1,787,387
Total Accumulated Funds		**9,578,325**	**737,160**	**-**	**10,315,484**

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 Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP)		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)	
Process Vegetables New Zealand		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**

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statement and refer to audit report.

Statement of Financial Position

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Account	Notes	2026	2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	**7**	4,805,288	4,176,489
Prepayments		249,001	300,121
Sundry debtors	**8**	1,752,875	3,313,580
Investments	**9**	5,764,340	5,459,264
Current tax receivable	**10**	52,158	-
Total Current Assets		**12,623,662**	**13,249,453**
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	**11**	349,303	370,988
Intangible assets	**12**	16,498	65,987
Total Non-Current Assets		**365,801**	**436,974**
Total Assets		**12,989,463**	**13,686,427**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenditure	**13**	1,818,556	2,197,300
Goods and Services Tax GST		85,200	158,783
Income in advance	**14**	770,223	1,708,654
Current tax payable	**10**	-	43,364
Total Current Liabilities		**2,673,978**	**4,108,102**
Total Liabilities		**2,673,978**	**4,108,102**
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		**10,315,485**	**9,578,325**
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses and deficits		10,315,484	9,578,325
Total Accumulated Funds		**10,315,484**	**9,578,325**

Bernadine Guilleux
HortNZ Board Chair
30 June 2026

Kate Scott
HortNZ Chief Executive
30 June 2026

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statement and refer to audit report.

Statement of Cash Flows

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Account	Notes	2026	2025
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Cash was received from:			
Levies		7,991,339	7,660,372
Grants		5,772,892	6,303,338
Member fees/subscriptions		563,724	497,958
Goods and services		2,998,152	2,152,620
Interest income		277,098	386,427
		17,603,205	17,000,715
Cash was applied to:			
Payment to employees		5,936,341	5,727,453
Payments to suppliers for goods and services		10,619,642	9,135,157
Payments for taxes		53,830	(112,655)
		16,609,813	14,749,955
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		**993,392**	**2,250,760**
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Cash was applied to:			
Fixed asset purchases		(59,518)	(272,536)
Intangible purchases		-	(26,740)
Increase in investments		(305,076)	(864,033)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		**(364,593)**	**(1,163,309)**
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash		628,799	1,087,451
Opening cash		4,176,489	3,089,038
Closing cash		4,805,288	4,176,489
This is represented by:			
Bank and Cash	**7**	**4,805,288**	**4,176,489**

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statement and refer to audit report.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Reporting Entity

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated ('the society') is a society registered in New Zealand under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

The industry association represents New Zealand's 4,300+ 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 30 June 2026.

(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 2025 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 Comprehensive Revenue and Expense and Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Both the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses 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 exchange revenue and accounted for on an accrual basis.

(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.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

(iii) Orchardist and NZGrower subscriptions

Subscription income is exchange revenue and recognised as earned by reference to the actual subscription period.

(iv) Contribution income and in-kind revenue

Contribution income is recognised as non-exchange revenue when control of the funds is obtained. If contributions are subject to conditions that require repayment if not met, revenue is recognised only as those conditions are satisfied. In-kind revenue is recognised where the goods and services received can be reliably measured and the goods and services would have been purchased if not donated.

(v) Significant judgements and estimation uncertainty disclosures

Judgement is exercised when determining if performance obligations or conditions exist within funding agreements, impacting on the timing of revenue recognition, particularily important for multi-period funding. Estimation uncertainty is used when estimating the fair value of in-kind contributions and determining the extent to which conditions attached to funding have been satisfied. No judgement or estimation is made over levy revenue and is recorded as declared by growers.

(vi) Grant funding/deed funding

Grant and project funding income is non-exchange revenue and recognised as revenue when associated obligations have been met.

(vii) Contract revenue/project services

If Horticulture New Zealand provides services this is exchange revenue and invoiced as the work is completed.

(viii) Conference fees and sponsorship

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

(ix) Administration service income

Horticulture New Zealand provides administration services to external product groups. This is exchange revenue and invoiced 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 (FVOCRE) – 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 2026

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 funiture 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% - 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 product group 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 2026

	2026	2025
7. Cash and Bank		
BNZ Direct Levy Account	129,661	16,291
BNZ Autocall Account	456,378	447,448
BNZ Current Account HortNZ	2,561,134	1,976,196
BNZ Current Account ALT	736,465	822,982
BNZ Savings Account ALT	921,649	913,573
Total Cash and Bank	**4,805,288**	**4,176,489**

8. Sundry Debtors

Sundry debtors and other receivables comprise amounts due from both exchange and non-exchange transactions.

- Exchange receivables arise from NZGAP revenue, conference registrations and magazine subscriptions along with administration service agreements.
- Non-exchange receivables arise from levy revenue, contribution revenue, in-kind revenue and project or grant funding.

	2026	2025
9. Investments		
Term Investment - BNZ	3,101,731	2,858,474
Term Investment - Rabobank	2,662,609	2,600,790
Total Investments	**5,764,340**	**5,459,264**

Interest rates on investments were 3.5% - 4% (2025: 4.3% - 5.8%)

	2026	2025
10. Income Tax		
Current Year Earnings	768,842	1,359,501
Tax at 28%	215,276	380,660
Adjustments to income tax		
Tax on non assessable income	(4,199,124)	(4,160,089)
Tax on non deductible expenditure	4,037,303	3,936,982
Total Tax Effect of Adjustments	**(161,821)**	**(223,108)**
Tax payable before losses brought forward	**53,455**	157,553
Tax credit for non-profit bodies	(280)	(280)
Tax Expense for the Period	**53,175**	**157,273**
Adjustment to prior year tax expense	(21,493)	(29,625)
Total Expense for the Period	**31,682**	**127,648**
Provisional tax paid	(22,966)	-
RWT	(82,367)	(113,908)
Provision for tax	53,175	157,273
	(52,158)	43,364
Current tax asset opening balance	43,364	(21,460)
Tax expense for the period	53,175	157,273
RWT	(82,367)	(113,908)
Provisional tax paid	(22,966)	-
Tax paid refunds received	(43,364)	21,460
Tax Expense (Refund) Due	**(52,158)**	**43,364**

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

11. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Office Equipment and Furniture	Leasehold Improvements	Total
Cost of Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2025	393,398	538,176	931,572
Additions	23,645	35,871	59,515
Disposals	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2026	**417,043**	**574,046**	**991,087**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2025	265,663	294,921	560,583
Depreciation	45,943	35,258	81,201
Balance as at 31 March 2026	**311,606**	**330,180**	**641,784**
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2026	**105,437**	**243,867**	**349,303**
As at 31 March 2025	**127,736**	**243,254**	**370,988**

12. Intangible Assets

	Software	Intangible Assets	Total
Cost of Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2025	428,196	-	428,196
Additions	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2026	**428,196**		**428,196**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2025	**362,208**	-	**362,208**
Depreciation	49,490	-	49,490
Balance as at 31 March 2026	**411,698**		**411,698**
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2026	**16,498**	**-**	**16,498**
As at 31 March 2025	**65,987**	**-**	**65,987**

13. Creditors and Accrued Expenditure

	2026	2025
Trade Creditors	821,041	1,377,141
Accrued Expenditure	752,821	628,122
Employee Entitlements	244,693	192,036
Total Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	**1,818,556**	**2,197,300**

PKF Kendons

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
14. Income in Advance		
ICMP	239,271	858,199
Other income in advance	142,482	350,054
Conferences	275,147	307,231
ACC injury project	4,099	67,535
NTWG	93,885	66,324
NZGAP	15,339	59,311
Total Income in Advance	**770,223**	**1,708,654**

	2026	2025
15. Professional Services		
Payments to Auditors - audit fee	36,000	54,000
Total Payments Made Were:	**36,000**	**54,000**

16. Commitments

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

	2026	2025
Operating Leases		
Non Cancellable Operating Lease Commitments		
Within one year	357,306	344,670
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,319,650	1,181,880
Later than five years	511,543	787,920
Total Non Cancellable Operating Lease Commitments	**2,188,499**	**2,314,470**
Total Operating Leases	**2,188,499**	**2,314,470**

17. Accumulated Funds

	2026	2025
Horticulture New Zealand		
Horticulture New Zealand opening balance	5,983,938	5,141,445
General Reserve		
Opening balance	5,983,938	5,141,445
Surplus/(deficit)	1,032,928	842,493
Transfers in/(out)	(2,500,000)	
Closing Balance	**4,516,866**	**5,983,938**
Project and Transformation Reserve		
Opening balance	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)	-	-
Transfers in/(out)	1,000,000	-
Closing Balance	**1,000,000**	**-**

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Emergency Reserve		
Opening balance	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)	-	-
Transfers in/(out)	1,500,000	-
Closing Balance	**1,500,000**	**-**
General reserve	4,516,866	5,983,938
Project and transformation reserve	1,000,000	-
Emergency reserve	1,500,000	-
Total Horticulture New Zealand	**7,016,866**	**5,983,938**

In 2026, the Board approved a policy to allocate Horticulture New Zealand core reserves across the following categories:

General Reserve: Provides for operational continuity during levy shortfalls and orderly wind-down if required. Target: 3–6 months' expenditure (40% - 65% of levy revenue). Use is Board-approved.

Project and Transformation Reserve: Funds strategic initiatives, including technology and co-funded projects. Target: 5% - 15% of levy revenue. Use is Board approved.

Emergency Reserve: Supports response to biosecurity events and natural disasters, including supporting growers in their response and business continuity. Target: $1m - $2m (15% - 30% of levy revenue). Use is Board approved.

18. Capital Commitments

Horticulture New Zealand has commitments to the following projects:

SFFF - A Lighter Touch - $100,000 over the next year.

19. Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at 31 March 2026. (2025: nil)

20. Related Parties

Horticulture New Zealand Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary company of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated 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 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 $53,000 for memberships, advertising and sponsorship in 2026.

(2025: $18,000).

Kate Scott, the Chief Executive of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated 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 $1,863 (2025: $34,395) for consultancy services for the Growing Change project. Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated paid the New Zealand Rural Leadership Trust $85,044 (FY25: $147,652).

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 2026 Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated Annual Report.

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

	2026	2025
Governing Body		
Remuneration	354,392	363,332
Number of Board members (pro-rata)	8.5	9
Executive Leadership		
Remuneration	1,242,071	1,269,475
Number of senior executive officers	7	8

21. Events Subsequent to Balance Date

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

22. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the entity will continue its operations for the foreseeable future and be able to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. Management have considered the existence of the Commodity Levies (Vegetables and Fruit) Order in place until 31 March 2031 and cash reserves to support this position.

23. SFFF - A Lighter Touch Project

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated entered into a Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFFF) Partnership Agreement with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 1 April 2020. The Project is called A Lighter Touch, and is a seven 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 alongside 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 New Zealand Incorporated, Tomatoes New Zealand, Vegetables New Zealand and Zespri.

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

	2026	2025
Total Income		
Funding received from MPI	1,730,916	1,953,713
Funding received from industry contributors	1,318,952	1,828,912
In-kind funding	1,028,343	1,534,142
Interest income	17,736	32,086
Total income	4,095,948	5,305,853
Less intercompany transactions	(291,882)	(378,846)
	3,804,065	4,971,007

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026, Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated contributed $100,000 (FY25: $100,000) to the project in cash and $43,592. (FY25: $44,868) in-kind. Process Vegetables New Zealand contributed $191,886 in cash (FY25: $234,850), all of which have been eliminated on consolidation.

24. Financial Instruments

Classification of financial instruments

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

2026	Financial Assets at Amortised Cost	Financial Liabilities Amortised at Cost	Total
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4,805,288		4,805,288
Trade debtors and other receivables	1,670,508		1,670,508
Investments	5,764,340		5,764,340
Total	**12,240,136**		**12,240,136**
Financial Liabilities			
Trade creditors and other payables		1,573,862	1,573,862
	-	**1,573,862**	**1,573,862**

2025	Financial Assets at Amortised Cost	Financial Liabilities Amortised at 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**

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

25. 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 New Zealand) and internal groups (NZGAP, Vegetable Research & Innovation Board, 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	Process Vegetables	SFFF - A Lighter Touch	Consolidation Entries	2026 Totals	2025 Totals
Revenues								
Levy Revenue								
Levies	7,416,176			473,063			7,889,239	7,344,468
Non-levy Revenue								
Conference fees and sponsorship	855,102						855,102	930,691
Grant income and project funding	2,786,372				3,049,869	(291,882)	5,544,359	5,559,775
Orchardist and NZGrower Advertising and subscriptions	559,120						559,120	508,419
Interest income	219,750	18,477	4,272	16,862.49	17,736		277,098	345,346
NZGAP fees		1,575,721				(176,670)	1,399,051	1,450,319
Administrative service income	542,973					(142,278)	400,695	276,054
Contribution income			238,242			(24,192)	214,050	432,569
In-kind revenue	257,863				1,071,935	(43,592)	1,286,206	1,616,486
Total Revenues	**12,637,356**	**1,594,198**	**242,514**	**489,925**	**4,139,539**	**(678,614)**	**18,424,919**	**18,464,127**
Expenses								
Levy Funded Expenses								
People costs	4,418,998	560,974	16,715	98,713	809,156		5,904,555	5,712,200
Governance	487,291	13,865	7,731	73,761	33,554		616,201	513,840
Leadership, conferences, meetings	1,466,372		176,469	286,670	34,958	(216,078)	1,748,390	1,647,797
Travel and accommodation	389,682	14,804	5,276	7,773	69,932		487,467	650,198
Marketing and publications	453,553	2,236		21,931	107,170		584,890	780,661
Professional services	3,149,080	816,432	74,393	29,650	2,115,697	(276,666)	5,908,586	4,987,288
Information technology	305,430	44,276					349,705	317,118
Occupancy costs	354,325						354,325	368,829
Office and administration	208,953	110,906	9,732	25,450	72,297	(142,278)	285,060	399,088
Depreciation	81,201	49,490					130,691	111,123
In-kind expenses	257,863				1,071,935	(43,592)	1,286,206	1,616,486
Total Expenses	**11,572,746**	**1,612,983**	**290,317**	**543,947**	**4,314,699**	**(678,614)**	**17,656,077**	**17,104,626**
Surplus/Deficit for the Year Before Tax	**1,064,610**	**(18,785)**	**(47,803)**	**(54,022)**	**(175,159)**		**768,842**	**1,359,501**
Tax expense	31,682						31,682	127,649
Surplus/Deficit for the Year After Tax	**1,032,928**	**(18,785)**	**(47,803)**	**(54,022)**	**(175,159)**		**737,159**	**1,231,852**

Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated 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

PKF Kendons Audit

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated on pages 24 to 41, which comprise the entity information, the statement of service performance, statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026, and the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in net assets and 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:

a) the reported outcomes and outputs, and quantification of the outputs to the extent practicable, in the statement of service performance are suitable;

b) the performance report on pages 24 to 41 presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the entity information for the year ended 31 March 2026;
- the service performance for the year then ended; and
- the financial position of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated as at 31 March 2026, and its statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of financial position, statement of changes in net assets, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)), and the audit of the entity information and statement of service performance in accordance with New Zealand Auditing Standard (NZ AS1) '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 Performance Report section of our report. We are independent of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated 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, Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated.

Other Matter

The performance report of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2025, was audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 16 July 2025.

Board' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board are responsible on behalf of the entity for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Tier 2 PBE, and for such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

PKF Kendons Audit

In preparing the financial statements, the Board are responsible on behalf of the entity for assessing the entity'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 the Board either intend to liquidate the entity 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 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 ISAs and NZ AS1 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, 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 www.xrb.govt.nz/standards-for-assurance-practitioners/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-8/.

Restriction on Responsibility

This report is made solely to the Members, as a body, in accordance with specify source of audit duty, constitution of Horticulture New Zealand Incorporated. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members those matters 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 Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

PKF Kendons

PKF Kendons Audit Limited Lower Hutt

30 June 2026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