

High Performance Manuka Plantations *PGP Programme*

Quarterly Progress Report

October to December 2011 (Quarter 2 2011/12) Executive Summary

There are four projects / objectives in the High Performance Manuka Plantations PGP Programme.

Work was progressed in the following areas during Quarter 2 2011/12:

Objective 1: Determine the key environmental factors which influence plant growth, flowering, nectar yield and nectar quality through controlled greenhouse trials

Work is running behind schedule due to the delay in recruiting a suitable PhD student and preparation of plant material for the trials. The PhD student commenced at the beginning of December 2011. These delays do not compromise the Programme objectives.

Trials are underway to evaluate nectar sampling and storage conditions.

Objective 2: Determine the effects of site, microsite and stocking rate on growth, flowering, nectar yield and quality

Monitoring of established Manuka variety trial plots and broad acre Manuka plantings was undertaken at two sites in the lower North Island.