



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Summary

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Organic Products and Production Act: Organic Standards Regulations

Portfolio	Agriculture
Purpose	This paper proposes regulations to set a National Organic Standard (the standards regulations).
Previous Decisions	In March 2023, DEV noted that MPI has been developing process regulations and a National Organic Standard to cover the production and processing of primary products, and agreed to consultation on the proposed content [DEV-23-MIN-0039].
Proposal	<p>The standards regulations will set out specific technical requirements for the production and processing of primary products, and will include organic principles that underpin the requirements in the Standard. A summary of the content of the regulations is in the table under paragraph 16, pages 3-4.</p> <p>The content of the National Organic Standard is consistent with existing voluntary standards, and does not introduce any new requirements for businesses. Some amendments were made to the content of the standard as a result of consultation, which focused largely on the technical requirements and clarifying terms.</p> <p>Officials are engaging with Māori and Pacific peoples on a potential alternative pathway for approving operators who produce or process primary products using traditional methods that meet the National Organic Standard.</p>
Impact Analysis	Not applicable.
Financial Implications	None from this paper.
Legislative Implications	Authorisation is sought for the Minister to issue drafting instructions. The Organic Products and Production Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 5 April 2023.
Timing Matters	None specified.
Communications	The Minister intends to issue a press release following Cabinet confirmation.

Consultation Paper prepared by MPI, MBIE (Commerce and Consumer Affairs), MfE, the Treasury, MoH, MoJ, DPMC (Prime Minister), MFAT (Trade and Export Growth), and Te Arawhiti were consulted.

The Minister indicates that DEV was consulted.

The Minister of Agriculture recommends that the Committee:

- 1 note that the Organic Products and Production Act 2023 (the Act) received Royal Assent on 5 April 2023;
- 2 note that, under the Act, the Ministry for Primary Industries has been developing a National Organic Standard, which includes the organic standards regulations and supplementary notices, to cover the production and processing of primary products;
- 3 note that the New Zealand public have been consulted with on the content of the organic standards regulations;
- 4 note that the content of the National Organic Standard is consistent with existing voluntary standards, and does not introduce any new requirements for businesses;
- 5 agree to the content of the proposed organic standards regulations as set out in detail in Appendix One, attached to the submission under DEV-23-SUB-0196, subject to the decision in paragraph six below;
- 6 agree to the organic standards regulations setting out organic principles, as set out in Appendix One;
- 7 agree to the inclusion of a requirement, set in regulations created under the Act, for organic operators to demonstrate that they have an understanding of the whakapapa of the land that their organic production operates on;
- 8 agree to the organic standards regulations setting out general and product specific technical requirements for organic products as set out in Appendix One;
- 9 authorise the Minister of Agriculture to further clarify and develop minor and technical policy matters relating to the organic standards regulations, in a way not inconsistent with the broad policy direction of the Cabinet decisions under DEV-23-MIN-0196;
- 10 invite the Minister of Agriculture to issue instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decisions in paragraphs five to nine;
- 11 note that there will be a single National Organic Standard that all approved operators would need to meet;
- 12 note that officials are engaging with Māori and Pacific peoples on a potential alternative pathway for approving those operators producing or processing primary products using traditional methods that meet the National Organic Standard.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution:
Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Proactively Released