

**RE: New Structure for OANZ**

I wanted to let you know that Organics Aotearoa New Zealand (OANZ) is restructuring and streamlining its administration and operations with CEO, Brendan Hoare moving on to concentrate on his own organic marketing, trade and organisational development business.

Your Board has decided not to replace the position when Brendan's contract ends on 31 October, instead administrative, accounting and secretariat support will be provided under a service agreement with Horticulture New Zealand. We believe this will generate cost savings and efficiencies as well as provide us with a base in Wellington where we will continue to lead the lobby for a national organic standard and underpinning legislation.

Brendan is a long-standing champion of the sector and we are very grateful for his contribution in helping build OANZ into the peak national representative organisation and leading advocate for organics in New Zealand. We wish him every success for the future.

When he became Executive Chair in 2012 before becoming our contracted CEO, the organisation was run down and losing members and influence. Today, the OANZ team can stand tall with a diverse 30-strong membership that includes producers, exporters, retailers, wholesalers, distributors and certifying agencies, a family of sponsors, an effective, representative Board and the strategy in place to promote ongoing growth and competitive advantage for New Zealand organics.

We've got a strong, energetic Board in place with complementary skills and a clear focus to work cooperatively and collaboratively with government and officials as they lead the next steps in developing a robust regulatory framework to give customers, consumers and communities here and in global markets the authentication they need that New Zealand organic produce and products are the real deal.

My fellow Board Members and I look forward to continuing to build OANZ and the sector for the benefit of members and indeed the national interest.

Sincerely



Doug Voss  
Chair  
**Organics Aotearoa New Zealand**

