

From: Hon David Bennett [mailto:David.Bennett@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 26 March 2020 10:16 AM
To: 'Bill Quinn'
Subject: RE: Submission extension Organic Products Bill.

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your email.

During the special session of Parliament yesterday, it was decided that the date for committees to report back to the House be deferred until a more appropriate time.

We understand that this period of lockdown makes it very difficult for the usual submission process to occur and so steps have been taken to make sure the time pressure is removed and that all submitters get a chance to have their say.

Kind regards,

David Bennett,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
HAMILTON EAST

From: Trevor Mallard [mailto:Trevor.Mallard@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 9:07 AM
To: Bill Quinn
Cc: Hon Damien O'Connor; Hon David Bennett
Subject: RE: Submission extension Organic Products Bill.

Bill

I can't grant extensions but I would be surprised if the committee doesn't.

Parliament is likely to defer report back dates from committees today.

Regards

Trevor Mallard

From: Bill Quinn [mailto:bill@organicag.co.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 8:12 AM
To: Trevor Mallard <Trevor.Mallard@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Damien O'Connor <Damien.O'Connor@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon David Bennett <David.Bennett@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Submission extension Organic Products Bill.

Hello Speaker of the House,

I seek an extension to the submission period relating to the Organic Products Bill.

I am involved in the organic pastoral and organic input sectors and have for the last several years discussed at many on farm and industry events the organic discussion document and over the last few weeks the Organic Products Bill.

For the growers/farmers that are organic in NZ this proposed legislation has huge potential to impact on a very small group of primary producers.

This does need good input from those currently involved.

For most of the input providers to certified organic primary production it is important that the eventual legislation does not cause them to drop organic status. Most only sell a very small percentage of their product to certified organic operations and care is required to ensure full consultation relating to the impacts of the Bill (Act) make the road easier rather than prohibitive (in their view). In the past when certifiers increased cost structures or changed messages re sector development the organic sector came very close to losing many allowed inputs.

Of concern, given the current Government directed shutdown of gatherings, is the close of submissions relating to this Bill, the 29th April 2020 and thus the ability to engage collectively.

Many of the organic primary producers I work with live and work in districts/locations where there is no to poor cell phone coverage and slow to very slow internet connection/speed.

This makes it very hard to engage to broaden/explore the understanding of the Bill and for these primary producers to formulate well thought out submissions.

The option of Skype conferencing for instance is non-achievable.

I note and welcome the extension for submissions on *The regulation of inhibitors used in agriculture MPI Discussion Paper No: 2020/01* and noting this is only at the discussion document stage not the regulatory action stage. While only 9 days it does give time to finalise the primary producer input for my submission.

While the time frame of any extension is clearly in your collective hands I would seek that it be extended to;

One month post the end of the 'stay at home' and 'no public gathering' directives that we are currently subject to.

I and all I have spoken with are supportive of the measures this administration has and is taking with regard to Covid-19.

Regards,

Bill Quinn,

OrganicAg.

Email; bill@organicag.co.nz

Web; <http://www.organicag.co.nz/>

Learn to ask the right question or you will get the correct answer not the right answer.