

Mike Smith

Roles in industry:

- Forum Member, New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated
- Advisory Forum Member, EastPack Entity Trust
- Chairman, Green Kiwifruit Growers Association
- Member, Bay of Plenty Young Fruitgrower Committee
- Trustee, AgRecovery Foundation
- Member Te Puke Fruitgrowers Association

Business:

- Shareholder/Manager, Welcome Bay Farms Ltd
- Director/Manager, Net-Man Ltd: Kiwifruit Management Company
- Shareholder, Zespri Group Ltd
- Shareholder, EastPack Ltd

Profile:

I have been involved in the kiwifruit industry for 20 years and currently grow kiwifruit in Welcome Bay near Tauranga. I have been a director of HortNZ since 2015 - a role I have found incredibly rewarding.

My background has been in dairy farming, sales and marketing with the stock and station industry and kiwifruit development and growing.

I hold a National Certificate in farm management and have been a participant in the Horticulture NZ leadership program.

Over the past decade I have had significant involvement in representing growers' interests and I am currently involved with New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated as a Forum member, a director of Horticulture New Zealand and Trustee of AgRecovery Ltd.

Other industry roles include Green Kiwifruit Growers Association as chairman, a member of Eastpack grower's forum, Bay of Plenty Young Grower of the Year committee and Past President of the Tauranga Fruitgrowers' Association.

I have been involved in several strategy projects including Eastpack/Satara supply entity merger review, Horticulture NZ Future Focus Working Group, The Kiwifruit Industry Strategy Project, Horticulture New Zealand's vision, mission and strategy refresh and am looking forward to the Horticulture Industry's new vision for beyond 2020.

Priority's

It is my view that every grower should be able to see the value they get from their levy payment.

Understandably the industry's focus is currently on Horticulture NZ as a defensive organisation, protecting growers' interests in Biosecurity and Resource management is vital.

Of equal importance and for horticulture to prosper, the big gains will come from looking forward.

Future success for horticulture requires ongoing leadership in securing the building blocks to enable growth, a reliable labour supply of both seasonal and skilled workers, continued tariff reductions and

improved market access for New Zealand horticulture products. These along with enhancing the relationships Horticulture NZ have with both the wider industry and with government will be pivotal in enabling the horticulture industry to achieve its growth strategy and for growers to see real value added to their businesses from their levy payments at work.

I ask for your support to represent you on the Board of Horticulture New Zealand.