



# SUBMISSION ON Grocery Code of Conduct consultation

22 August 2022

**To:** Ministry Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

**FROM:** Vegetables New Zealand Inc (VNZI)

20 Balance St

Wellington

**Contact for service:**

Privacy of natural persons



## VEGETABLES NEW ZEALAND INC (VNZI):

Vegetables New Zealand Inc (VNZI) advocates for and represents the interests of 700 commercial vegetable growers in New Zealand. VNZI members grow around 55 different crop types and employ over 10,000 workers. Land under vegetable cultivation in New Zealand is approximately 30,000 hectares.

Over 80% of the vegetables that Vegetable New Zealand growers produce are for the domestic market.

Vegetable New Zealand growers have an industry value of \$420m. Vegetable growing covers all regions of New Zealand, from the far north with kumara, to the deep south with carrots and parsnip. VNZI is the only industry group to sustain communities throughout New Zealand with a range of diverse vegetables for a healthy and balanced diet. Moreover, vegetable growers have an economic impact in every region of New Zealand where they invest in their business operations and employ significant numbers of New Zealanders.

### Executive summary:

- 1. Vegetables New Zealand advocates for a Code of Conduct in the retail and wholesale supply of vegetables in the NZ grocery sector.**
- 2. Vegetables New Zealand agrees with the values section of the Code of Conduct – fair, equitable and transparent business practices for all participants who are governed under the code of conduct.**
- 3. Vegetables New Zealand agrees that an official adjudicator is needed to ensure all parties have a mechanism for independent review, adherence to the code and its enforceable instruments.**
- 4. Vegetables New Zealand agrees with a hybrid / alternative code of conduct which incorporates the best parts of the UK and Australian codes.**
- 5. Vegetables New Zealand agrees with the need to have a disputes process to moderate disagreement or misunderstanding within a supply agreement.**
- 6. Vegetables New Zealand acknowledges the importance of a supply agreement which determines the nature and expectation of a business arrangement to supply into a retail and wholesale market.**
- 7. Vegetables New Zealand notes that the Code of Conduct needs to capture all retail and wholesale sector participants, including membership and independent entities.**



# Submission

**Vegetables New Zealand supports the submission by Horticulture New Zealand.**

Vegetable New Zealand (VNZI) thanks MBIE for the opportunity to submit on the Grocery Code of Conduct for the grocery sector.

VNZI wishes to be heard in support of our submission and would be prepared to consider presenting our submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing.

End