



**NEW ZEALAND  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY OFFICE**  
Plant Variety Rights

New Zealand

Plant Variety Rights

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## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### I.A CLOSING DATES – NOTICE TO BREEDERS ENTERING VARIETIES IN CENTRAL DUS TRIALS

#### CONDUCTED BY THE PVR OFFICE

You will need to meet the following deadline in order to have your variety included in the central trials to be established in 2020 –

Summer-sown Forage Brassicas	Make application by 1 January 2021
Clover	Make application by 15 January 2021
Grasses	Make application by 1 February 2021

### I.B HOLIDAY CLOSING OF THE PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS OFFICE

The Plant Variety Rights Office will close at end of business on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and re-open on Tuesday, 5 January 2021.

### I.C PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS ACT (1987) REVIEW

On 18 November 2019 Cabinet agreed to make changes to the PVR Act. The drafting of a Bill to give effect to our obligations under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Treaty of Waitangi has commenced.

There remain a small number of additional policy issues that require further consideration and consultation. These include Treaty of Waitangi compliance issues and operational issues relating to the PVR Office. Consultation regarding these issues is open for public comment until 5 October 2020. Further information and the full discussion document is available at

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/business/intellectual-property/plant-variety-rights/plant-variety-rights-act-review/>

This year's events have caused a revision of the timetable for the review. The revised objective is to have a Bill in Parliament by the end of this year and a new law in place by the end of 2021.

### I.D STAFF CHANGES

The resignation of Chris Hardy, Senior Examiner for Agriculture and Vegetable varieties has ended a long period of people stability at PVRO. Prior to this resignation, recruitment was already underway to fill a new PVR Examiner position and the opportunity was taken to also recruit a replacement for the newly vacated Examiner post. The result is for two new Examiners to start in Christchurch in mid-October.

### I.E TECHNICAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The annual meeting of the Plant Variety Rights Technical Focus Group was held virtually on Thursday 20 August 2020. This meeting provides the opportunity for the sharing of information and views between breeders, applicants, industry and PVRO. The meeting report is available at

<https://www.iponz.govt.nz/assets/pdf/PVR/Technical-guidance/plant-variety-rights-technical-focus-group-meeting-notes-20-August-2020.pdf>

#### I.F ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR PASTURE SPECIES

The meeting was held on Monday 21 September at The Plant Variety Rights Office Southern Business Centre, Christchurch. DUS testing of pasture and fungal endophyte varieties is increasing in complexity and the group fosters collaboration between plant breeders and PVRO to enhance testing quality. The report is currently being drafted and will be circulated to participants in the near future. The report can be made available to other interested persons on request.

#### I.G DUS TESTING PROVIDER FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIES

AsureQuality Ltd has been reappointed as the provider of centralised DUS testing for pasture and forage species, cereals, peas and potatoes. The growing trials for these species will continue to be located in and around Lincoln, Canterbury. AsureQuality Ltd works closely with the PVR Examiners in Christchurch.