

Your submission to APP203853 Giant willow aphid Biological Control Agent

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Reference no: 34

Clause

What is your position on the application?

Position

I support the application

Notes

Clause

The reasons for making my submissions are: (Any supporting documents can be attached at the end of this submission)

Notes

NZ Plant Producers Inc. represents approximately 100 businesses in commercial plant nurseries and related sectors such as plant retailers and landscape gardeners. We are supporting the importation and release of the parasitoid wasp, *Pauesia nigrovaria*, as a biological control agent for the pest, the giant willow aphid (*Tuberolachnus salignus*). Our members include nurseries producing willows, poplars, apples and pears, which are all at risk from giant willow aphid. It can also infest native tress including *Coprosma* spp. Apart from the direct effects on the host trees, the aphid produces an unsightly sooty mould which can reduce the commercial value of hosts and any plants nearby. Lastly, the aphid has deleterious effects on bees, which are an important pollinator for many plant species. We believe *Pauesia* has real potential to provide a long term and sustainable solution for controlling GWA, without the use of chemicals. The expected benefits of releasing the parasitoid include increased health of trees used for erosion control and as spring resources for bees, improved health of honeybees and honey quality, reductions in harmful sooty mould in areas close to willows, and reduced populations of invasive pest insects such as vespids wasps, which are voracious predators of native and beneficial insects.

Clause

All submissions are taken into account by the decision makers. In addition, please indicate whether or not you also wish to speak at a hearing if one is held.

Position

Yes I wish to speak about my submission at the hearing

Notes

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.