

## **Andrew Harrison**

*"We're a strong and innovative industry, we're striving to succeed and grow, we have some inspiring leaders, we're an important part of the regional and national economy. Protecting our industry from biosecurity risks really matters! And I'm loving growing my own crop and learning in truckloads!"*

### **Current position in the kiwifruit industry –**

*Biosecurity Programmes Manager*

### **Who do you work for?**

*I primarily work for 'Kiwifruit Vine Health', a grower funded organisation tasked with managing biosecurity for the New Zealand kiwifruit industry. I also work for the Nursery and Garden Industry New Zealand as its board chairman.*

### **What does your role involve?**

*My focus is on advocacy, partnerships with government and other industries, and leading programmes to improve biosecurity for our industry. This includes shaping a new biosecurity partnership between the government and primary industries to make sure we are collectively ready for future biosecurity incursions, that we respond decisively, and pursue improvements to the border and other parts of the biosecurity system. I am working across our industry to improve our readiness, including leading 'KiwiNet' – the kiwifruit industry's biosecurity team. I was involved in representing the kiwifruit industry on the leadership team for the biosecurity response to the 'Queensland Fruit Fly' incursion in Grey Lynn. I'm also coordinating wider initiatives that reduce biosecurity risk to our industry, for example, as coordinator for a partnership with the Port of Tauranga, government and industry to achieve 'A Port Community Committed to Biosecurity Excellence'.*

*I'm also a relatively new grower with a small Hayward block out in Te Puna – a 'Green' grower in every sense!*

### **What was your career path?**

*I did my tertiary training at Massey University (B.Sc. Ecology and Environmental Science) and Lincoln University (M.Sc. in Resource Management), and between degrees for several years I set up and ran my own small business involved in landscape design, construction and a small nursery. I worked for the Department of Conservation for six years in science and technical roles, starting at a regional level with focus on biodiversity programmes and moving to a national role coordinating the department's biosecurity operations. From there I moved to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, where I served in both policy and operational roles, including as a senior policy analyst, then national manager of its pest management functions, then policy manager for biosecurity and animal welfare. That gave me a wide range of "government" experience in relation to governance, leading development of strategy, leading law reform, developing strategic and operational policy, managing operations, serving as a national regulator, and providing specialist advice. From there I moved into roles with both the kiwifruit and nursery industries – a conscious path as I think it's important to have people that understand both how government and industries think and operate, and I want to be someone who bridges these.*



**Biosecurity  
Programmes Manager**

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**Kiwifruit is great source  
of vitamin C**