
REQUEST FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION ARISING FROM HEARING B

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HORTICULTURE NZ

Indigenous Shelter

The type of shelterbelts used by growers can be variable. Exotic species would be the most commonly used as these are generally faster growing than native species. One native species that is commonly used in Canterbury is Pittosporum – this species is fast growing and thrives in Canterbury's alpine climate. It's important to select the species that are adapted to local conditions.

While exotic species are the most common, growers do plant native shelter and/or a mix of exotic and native. They mainly do this for biodiversity reasons to provide sustenance for bees and native wildlife.

The type of species also depends on the crop grown – having native species that attracts more bird life would be detrimental to a fruit orchard and anti-bird measures would need to be deployed – eg – audible bird scaring devices.

Update: HorticultureNZ doesn't recommend shelterbelt species to growers – this is more the role of nurseries who would have knowledge of local conditions and which species would suit growing conditions.

Recognised Seasonal Employee

Through temporary employment in New Zealand, Pacific workers can earn higher incomes and remit these earnings back to their communities in the Pacific. These earnings support achievement of workers' financial goals, including paying school fees, investing in community projects, building houses and starting businesses back home.

MFAT funds economic re-integration initiatives in some countries. For example, [V-LAB](#), a start-up in Vanuatu that receives funding from New Zealand, supports returned seasonal workers to complete training and establish or grow a business.

The RSE Worker Training Programme ([Vakameasina](#)) leads development opportunities and action plans for applying learning and resourcing for RSE workers in their home countries.

Through our Labour team at HortNZ, we have sought information on the number of returning RSE workers to their home country who have utilised education and skills learned in New Zealand into starting businesses. We hope to have that information by 2nd August and will provide this to Commissioner Solomon once received.

Update: HortNZ has now heard back from the Country Liaison Officers for RSE who work closely with employers to support the needs of workers returning to their home countries of Tonga and Samoa. They have confirmed that data is not kept on the transferrable of skills, education into starting businesses for returning RSE workers.