****

**Nomination and Election of TomatoesNZ Incorporated Board Members - 2018**

The TomatoesNZ’s Board represents the interests of fresh tomato growers in New Zealand. Six of the positions on the TomatoesNZ Board are for members elected by fresh tomato growers. In addition to the six elected positions the current TNZ Board consists of three co-opted members, two observers, and an independent chair. The Chair and Vice Chair of TomatoesNZ are not elected, but appointed by the TomatoesNZ Board.

Due to retirement there are **currently two vacancies** on the TNZ Board:

• **Jonathan Baker**, Christchurch, stepped down in February 2018 as he is no longer eligible as a director (no longer a fresh tomato grower and levy payer).

• **Hayden Armstrong,** Levin, has stepped down in February 2018 as he is no longer eligible as a director (no longer a fresh tomato grower and levy payer).

**Albert Shih,** tomato grower from Canterbury, was appointed by the board in March to fill one of the vacancies until the election, and intends to stand.

This means the board will have a vacancy unless at least one more grower puts themselves forward for this election. If you are interested in standing and want to know more please contact me on helen.barnes@hortnz.co.nz or 0508 467 869.

**Nominations close at 5pm Tuesday 5th June 2018**

This is your opportunity to have direct input into the election process. To make a nomination please use the enclosed nomination form. Further details regarding the election process and any questions you may have are detailed below. If you require any further information please call Horticulture NZ on 0508 467 869 and ask to speak with either Helen Barnes or Karen Orr.

***Who can be nominated?***

Any active fresh tomato grower that has grown and paid levy on fresh tomatoes during the past 12 months, or a director, shareholder, trustee or employee (nominated by the grower entity as their representative) of an active fresh tomato grower, can be nominated.

***Who can make the nomination?***

Any active fresh tomato grower can make a nomination or second a nomination. All nominations must be seconded and also signed by the nominee to confirm that they are willing to stand. Elected representatives who are retiring by rotation and are available for re-election **do not** need to be nominated.

***Where do I send nominations?***

Nomination forms should be returned to TomatoesNZ by either emailing to: josie.hehir@hortnz.co.nz, or by post to PO Box 10232, The Terrace, Wellington 6143.

***Will there be a vote?***

If there are more nominations than positions available, growers will be eligible to vote on a one grower: one vote basis in a postal ballot.

If required, voting papers will be sent to growers on **11th June and voting will close on 25th June 2018.**

***Who is eligible to vote?***

In order to be eligible to vote you must be registered as a member of Tomatoes New Zealand by **5pm on** **Monday 25th June 2018** and be actively engaged in the commercial production of tomatoes in New Zealand for sale on the fresh domestic or fresh export markets and, in the preceding 12 month period (or part thereof), have paid a levy on fresh tomatoes (i.e. excluding tomatoes grown for processing).

***Further Information***

For a full list of the current Board members please see the “About” page on the tomatoesnz.co.nz website.