

By email: [Diane.Totton@epa.govt.nz](mailto:Diane.Totton@epa.govt.nz)

19/04/2024

Dear Diane

**Submission on APP203314 Chilean needle grass BCA. Resumption of application**

DairyNZ is pleased that the application for the release the rust fungus *Uromyces pencanus* as a biological control agent to control Chilean needle grass, *Nassella neesiana*, has resumed.

The conclusion of the Department of Conservation commissioned report, indicating that Chilean needle grass rust fungus does not pose a significant threat to native plants, appears to remove the last the barrier to the granting of this application.

DairyNZ stands by its combined submission with Beef + Lamb New Zealand and Federated Farmers and still strongly supports the release, which has become increasingly important owing to the further spread of this weed since 2018.

DairyNZ does not wish to be heard at the public hearing.

Yours sincerely



Mitch Cooper  
Senior Technical & Policy Advisor – Biosecurity  
DairyNZ

[mitch.cooper@dairynz.co.nz](mailto:mitch.cooper@dairynz.co.nz)