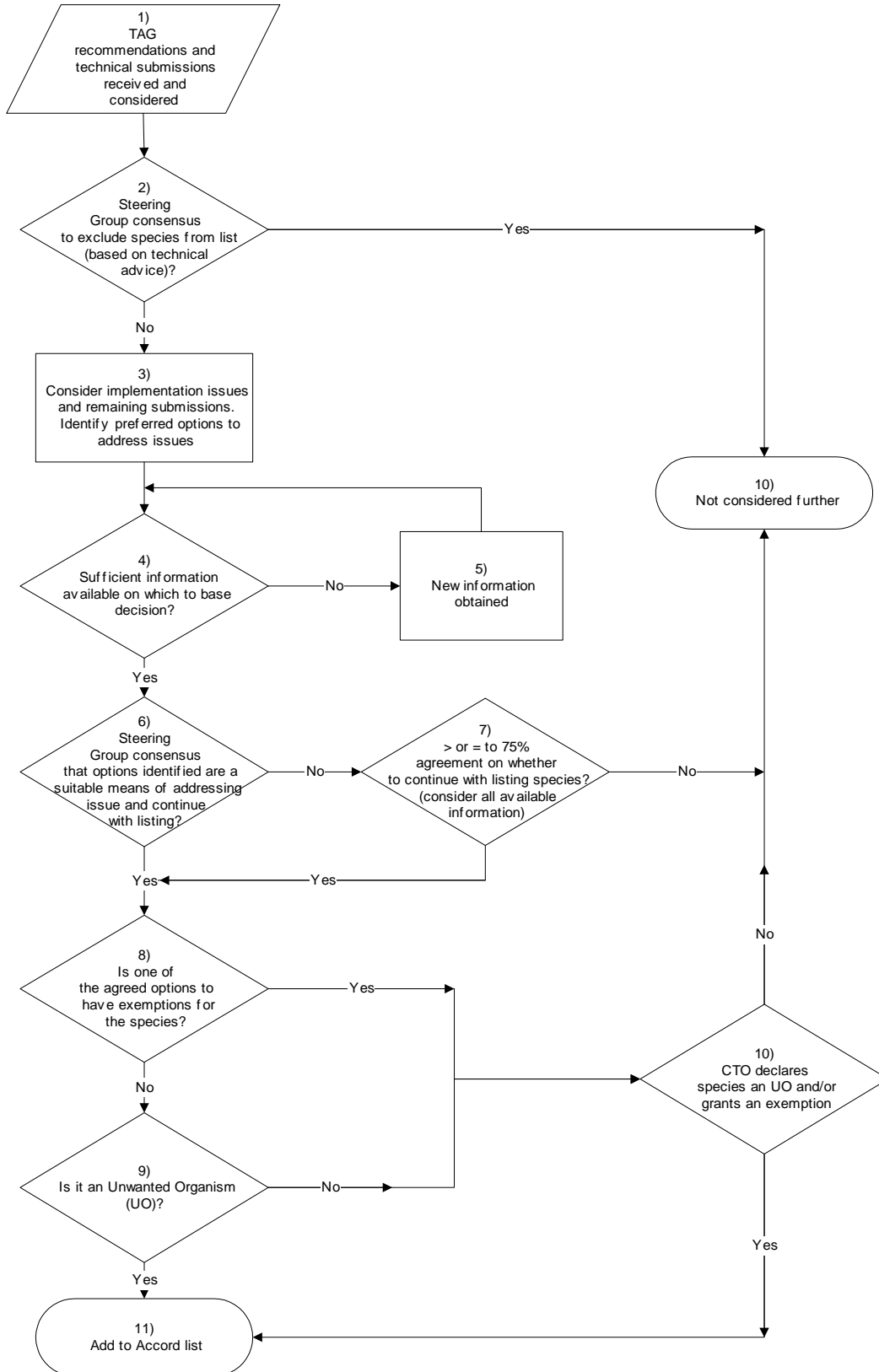


NPPA Species Assessment – Steering Group Process



Decision-Making Criteria and Process for NPPA Steering Group

To be used when determining whether a plant species is to be included on the NPPA list.

Step 1:

- A. Receive TAG group recommendations (incorporating comments on submissions that relate to criteria used by the TAG to do assessments), and fill in associated table stating whether individual Steering group members agree or disagree with TAG recommendations.

The following criteria should be triggered to accept a plant for further consideration for listing in the NPPA.

- i. Is the plant present in NZ?
 - ii. Is the plant capable of forming self-sustaining populations?
 - iii. Does the plant have the potential to cause adverse impacts?
 - iv. Is the plant considered 'weedy'? (based on weed risk assessment criteria)
 - v. Does the plant have appeal as a cultivated plant?
 - vi. Does the plant currently have a distribution that would be extended through commercial sale?
 - vii. Is the plant difficult to control (in the wild)?
- B. Each point raised in submissions should be considered and either accepted, or declined. If declined provide a reason for that decision.

Step 2:

- A. Decide whether to continue with listing of species.
- B. If consensus is reached to exclude a species based on the considerations in Step 1, then the species is not considered further in this process.
- C. If consensus is reached to continue running a species through the process, then proceed to Step 3.
- D. If consensus to either include or exclude a species was not reached, retain the species in the system process for the time being, but flag it as a questionable species for inclusion.

Step 3:

A. Consider issues surrounding implementation if the species was to be listed. This includes:

Sectors	Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Commercial (including primary production, industry, service sectors)○ Environmental (including valued indigenous and introduced species, biological systems, biodiversity)○ Social (including personal property, lifestyle)○ Human health and well-being○ Maori cultural and spiritual values○ Public (interms of Crown resources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Positive and negative (including averted impacts of the organism, additional costs or forgone opportunities to affected sectors)○ Direct and indirect (with regard to the risk management objective, incorporating the response of affected sectors, with care to avoid double-counting)○ Tangible and intangible○ Short and long-term (recognising the dynamics of biological and economic systems)○ Incorporating probability (such as of entry, establishment, spread of organism, domestic or export market reaction, success)○ Incorporating relative timing○ With regard to need for and costs and benefits of managing other biosecurity risks

There should be an overall net benefit in listing the species on the Accord. That is the negative impacts of the organism should outweigh any negative impacts that would result through the listing of the species (species impact vs regulatory impact).

B. Consider any remaining submissions, and either accept, or decline them. If declined provide a reason for that decision.

C. Consideration should also be given to whether the NPPA is the most appropriate mechanism for controlling the plant (e.g. as opposed to a RPMS). Reasons for including in the NPPA are:

- i. The plant has the ability to cause nation-wide serious adverse effects (e.g. a widespread plant may have different behavioural characteristics in different parts of the country. It may exhibit ‘weedy’ characteristics only in certain areas. If so it may be unjustified to impose national control), and/or;
 - ii. Exacerbator issues or coordination difficulties exist requiring a unified national approach (e.g. a that region is not controlling the plant is in some way exacerbating the problem for a region that is controlling the plant).
- D. Identify options for addressing any implementation issues or issues raised through submissions, and identify the preferred option(s) for each species. These become the conditions that must be met before listing the species, e.g.;
 - Exemption to sell only (limited timeframe to clear stock)
 - Exemption to allow export
 - Exemption to cultivate certain cultivars
 - Exemption to sell in part of New Zealand (e.g. South Island)
 - Exemption for research purposes
- E. Reconsider those species that were flagged in Step 2 as ‘questionable species for inclusion’ factoring in all available information (i.e. TAG advice, submissions, implementation issues).

Step 4:

- A. Determine if there is sufficient information to enable a decision. If not defer the decision until additional information is sourced.

Step 5:

- A. Prompt and active sourcing of additional information to enable a decision to be made.

Step 6:

- A. Decide whether to continue with listing of species.
- B. If consensus was reached on a suitable means of addressing the issues identified, and/or accepting or rejecting the ‘questionable species for inclusion’ then proceed to Step 6.
- C. If consensus was not reached, then proceed to Step 5.

Step 7:

- A. If there was not consensus reached on whether the species should be included or not, then the steering group will vote on the issue. Each agency has one vote (i.e. DOC, MAF, NGIA, Regional Councils (collectively)).
- B. If vote results in 75% (or greater) majority to continue with listing of species, then proceed to Step 6.
- C. Any other outcome from the vote (i.e. failure to meet the 75% agreement to proceed with listing) will result in the species being discarded from the process and not considered further.

Step 8:

- A. Was an 'exemption permit' identified as an agreed option to address issues associated with listing of the species? (i.e. is an exemption a condition that must be met before you would list the species?).
 - i. If No, proceed to Step 7.
 - ii. If Yes, proceed to Step 8

Step 9:

- A. If the species is already an Unwanted Organism then include the species on the Accord list (i.e. proceed to Step 9).
- B. If the species is not an Unwanted Organism, proceed to Step 8.

Step 10:

- A. Forward the species to the CTO Biosecurity for consideration and decision on whether to declare it an Unwanted Organism (if it isn't already), and decision on whether to grant an exemption (if this has been determined as necessary to overcome implementation issues).
- B. If the CTO declares the species an Unwanted Organism and/or grants an exemption then include the species on the Accord list (i.e. proceed to Step 9).

- C. If the CTO does not declare the species an Unwanted Organism and/or grant an exemption, then it is not included on the Accord list.

Step 11:

- A. Compile the Accord list, including specific agreed implementation conditions.