

High Performance Manuka Plantations *PGP Programme*

Quarterly Progress Report October to December 2013 (Quarter 2 2013/14) Executive Summary

There are four projects / objectives in the High Performance Manuka Plantations PGP Programme.

Work was progressed in the following areas during Quarter 2 2013/14:

Objective 1: Determine the key environmental factors which influence plant growth, flowering, nectar yield and nectar quality through controlled greenhouse trials

Monitoring of the established trials continued assessing effects of soils, latitude and light levels on a range of Manuka clones. New trials are being established to assess effects of soil salinity.

Objective 2: Determine the effects of site, microsite and stocking rate on growth, flowering, nectar yield and quality

Monitoring of the established Manuka variety and clone trial plots and broad acre Manuka plantings continued at three sites in the lower and central North Island, and was intensified over the flowering period. Manuka variety and clone trial plots were established at a fourth site on the East Coast of the North Island at the end of winter 2013.

Objective 3: Determine further the effects of environmental and genetic variables on nectar yield and quality.

Work planning is underway with a PhD student confirmed and due to commence studies in February 2014.

Objective 4: To develop predictive tools for plantation management.

No work was scheduled for Objective 4 during this period.