# Taranaki Kiwifruit Event 12th October 2020





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# Who we are

# APATA GROUP LIMITED

# Orchard manager and post-harvest provider

- Kiwifruit, Avocados and Blueberries
- Largest packer of organic kiwifruit
- Largest packer of avocados
- 270 hectares under management and 230 under development, both growing rapidly
- Not a Co-op but predominantly grower owned (250 shareholders)
- Operating sites either side of Tauranga but manage orchards as far afield as Whanganui and Gisborne

# Services We Offer

# On orchard

- Technical advice
- Land development
- Vine management
- Full management
- Lease
- Harvest

# Post Harvest

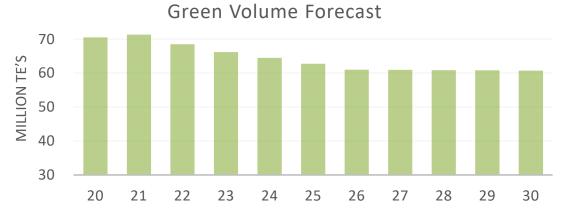
- Transport to site
- Pack & Cool
- Inventory management & Loadout

# Regional Servicing Challenge

- Transport
- Labour
- Critical Mass

# Green Kiwifruit

- Why Green kiwifruit?
  - Whanganui a successful Green growing area
  - Taranaki has grown Green kiwifruit before
  - No license cost
  - Zespri are likely to be short of their ideal Green supply of 70m tray equivalents



## Other varieties

- SunGold a runaway success but Green is better suited to Taranaki/Whanganui regions
- Red the current Red variety has transport issues (heat, damage), short storage life
- Any new Green cultivar could offer a step-up opportunity in the future

# Kiwifruit Investment

- Land suitability and assessment
  - Not all land or climates are suited to kiwifruit
  - Free draining soils (volcanic ash) preferred but not at too high an altitude
  - Land will require shelter to be planted
  - Water supply is critical
  - > Service providers need critical mass in an area otherwise the cost to serve becomes uneconomic for both the service provider and the orchard owner



# Kiwifruit Investment

# Financial inputs and outcomes

- Land development costs \$130k-\$150k per hectare (excl. cost of land)
- Working capital post development of ~\$70K per hectare
- EBITDA \$24k per hectare return once in full production or 12% on total investment including the land
- With bank debt included investor return p.a. of ~16% to equity
- ~13% IRR on current Orchard Gate Returns (incl Capital Gain)





# **Kiwifruit Investment**

# Ownership Models

- Landowner develops land themselves
- Landowner vends land in to a partnership
- Limited Partnership established by syndicator (MyFarm) or other provider (Apata)

# Apata's current focus and future plans

# South Taranaki (Waitotara)

- •21 canopy hectare development syndicated and underway (will be planted by Christmas 2020)
- •Apata developing and managing (currently employing an orchard manager for the region)
- Currently assessing land for next stage development
- •Investment available in future stages

# Whanganui

- •20 hectares picked and packed presently
- •36 canopy hectares under development (planting complete winter 2021)

# Future plans

- Further opportunity in both above regions
- •Waitotara area will be focus for next 2-3 years
- Taranaki an option but not immediately and not without critical mass
- Prepared now to assess land and discuss investment opportunities



# Questions

How much (or how little) do I need to be involved with the actual day-to-day growing to be successful in kiwifruit?

- As much or as little as you want!
- Flexible management options, but...
- Service options are cost prohibitive unless at scale

What happens once my fruit leaves my orchard?

- Picked, Transported to Packhouse
- Packed into boxes, Coolstored. Regularly Condition Checked, may be re-worked
- Zespri orders, loaded to wharf, delivered to market
- Grower pooling system protects individual growers from long storage fruit loss cost

# Concerns

# **Expertise**

- Lack of in-region expertise
- Lack of support services
- No access to labour (for picking and pruning)

# If at scale, Apata can provide these services

# **Growing Conditions**

•Climate	Ok for Green
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•Cyclone Bola	Improved infrastructure and shelters
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•Frosts	Frost	prote	ection	in-	bui	lt
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•Hail damage Ha	l cover	/ hail	insurance
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•High wind	Improved infrastructure and shelters

•Location Site by site feasibility analysis

•No shelter Grow shelter

•Pollination difficulty Artificial pollination options

•Sea salt air Improved infrastructure and shelters

•Soil unsuitable Site by site feasibility analysis

•Temperature unsuitable, too cold, too wet Climate is ok for Green

# Concerns

## Infrastructure

Geographic isolation

Lack of cool stores

Lacking of infrastructure

No local packhouse

Port not shipping containers

Supply Chain not ready

Too far from infrastructure

Orchard management infrastructure

requires scale

Transport to BOP for Post-harvest

processing is economic

### Landowner related

Cost of Infrastructure

Grower risk appetite

History

Capital Available

Sales/Marketing related

•Multi exporters of 1980's/early 90's

**Orchard Management options** 

Site by Site feasibility

Improved infrastructure, shelter,

growing methods

Capital options available

Replaced in 1990's with regulated single desk marketing system (Zespri)



# We thank Venture Taranaki for inviting us and welcome any questions

