

**From:** Laura Bowles [mailto:laura.agchall@hotmail.net.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 May 2007 3:07 PM  
**To:** Clancy, Sharon  
**Subject:** Re: VPGC application for authorisation - questions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sharon,

Thankyou very much for the reply.

The file note is correct, though perhaps a further explanation of the association with the VFF Horticultural Council should be entered into. The VPGC is a commodity group that 'stands alone' in the VFF. We have been asked to join the Horticultural Group, and receive Horticultural Group newsletters and assistance when required, however we are not yet members of the horticultural group, but sit underneath it as an individual branched commodity group. Lis Blandamer, the manager of the horticultural group in the VFF, could perhaps explain in detail where the VPGC sits in regards to other commodities.

I request that the application is changed to request interim authorisation for the 2008 supply year, instead of 2007. The reason for this, is that almost all growers in the McCain Growers group have already supplied McCain Foods with potatoes for 2007, under individual contracts.

The McCain Growers Group would like to begin negotiations with McCain Foods for the 2008 supply season as soon as possible. With an interim authorisation, the growers and the company will be able to begin negotiations before potatoes are planted for the 2008 growing season, which will significantly benefit both the company (who will then know what sort of tonnage should be expected for the 2008 season and the price that must be paid for those potatoes to growers) and the grower, who can then decide what to plant for the 2008 season and know what contract he will have with McCain Foods before planting.

As soon as interim authorisation is granted, the negotiations will start with McCain Foods for the 2008 supply season. It is preferred that the negotiations take place before planting, and thus August will be too late for most growers. May/June is the ideal time of year for negotiations to begin.

I thank you for all your help and hope that you will consider this request.

Sincerely,

Laura Bowles.  
Executive Officer  
Victorian Potato Growers Council