

20 May 2026

Micki Gordic | VP, Corporate Development & Strategy, McCain Foods Limited
Micki.Gordic@McCain.ca, cc Angus.MACLELLAN@mccain.ca; Maria.Voronina@mccain.com.au

Dear Micki

We are writing to you as the Mayors of Central Hawke's Bay and Hastings District following McCain's announcement regarding the future of its Hawke's Bay operations.

Firstly, we want to acknowledge the longstanding contribution that McCain has made to Hawke's Bay. The company has been an important employer, a valued member of our community, and a cornerstone of the region's vegetable growing and food manufacturing sector for many years. The impacts of the proposed closure extend far beyond the plant itself, affecting growers, families, contractors, and the wider regional economy.

Since the announcement, we have seen a significant level of engagement and support emerge across Hawke's Bay and from central Government. There is genuine interest across the political spectrum in understanding whether there remains a viable pathway that could retain food manufacturing capability and protect the economic ecosystem that has developed around the site.

We understand that McCain must work within commercial realities and timeframes. However, we respectfully request that McCain consider providing an eight-week period during which the Hawke's Bay community and interested parties can complete an independent feasibility study into potential future options for the site and its operations.

During this period, we ask that McCain refrain from disassembling or materially altering plant and equipment where possible, to ensure that any assessment can be undertaken on the basis of the facility remaining substantially intact. Our understanding from discussions to date is that the plant remains in good condition and that preserving optionality during this short timeframe could prove important.

This request is not made lightly, nor does it presume any particular outcome. Rather, it reflects a desire to properly test whether there is a credible and commercially realistic pathway worth exploring before opportunities are closed.

We have been encouraged by the support and interest shown by Ministers and Members of Parliament from across the House, alongside strong regional leadership and grower engagement. There is a shared recognition of the strategic importance of Hawke's Bay's food manufacturing capability and the role McCain has played in supporting it.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this request and better understand what support or conditions McCain may require to enable such a process to occur constructively and in good faith.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and remain committed to working collaboratively and pragmatically with McCain and all interested parties.

Kind regards,



Wendy Schollum
Mayor
Hastings District Council



Will Foley
Mayor
Central Hawke's Bay District Council