

NEW ZEALAND FINCH BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



Import restrictions

New Zealand has strict controls on the importation of animal and plant species. The intent is to minimize the biosecurity risks associated with the movement of goods and materials across the border, as it may affect New Zealand's industries and biodiversity. Bird importations have been generally prohibited since 1997, and obtaining approval to bring particular species into the country is difficult to achieve. Unfortunately, the universal approach restricting imports has meant that new finch bloodlines have not been able to be established. Sustaining the populations of some finch species in various collections have been difficult to achieve. This is despite the fact that the biosecurity risk associated with finch imports are considered to be very low. The NZFBA would welcome further work by statutory authorities in New Zealand to enable authorised importations of finch populations, to supplement the populations already in captivity, and to enhance the conservation efforts for these captive species.