

Date: Thursday 24 April 2025
Time: 10.00am
Meeting Room: Albert-Eden Local Board Office
Venue: 114 Dominion Road
 Mt Eden

Albert-Eden Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

GROWING PLAYERS

INCREASED PARTICIPATION AND LOVE OF THE GAME

THRIVING CLUBS

IMPROVED CAPACITY + IMPROVED CAPABILITY

BUILDING COMMERCIAL VALUE

IMPROVED BRAND PERCEPTION + COMMERCIALISATION

LEADING FACILITIES

GROWING INVESTMENTS + WORLD CLASS FACILITIES

2024 THE YEAR THAT WAS



MORE THAN JUST RUGBY LEAGUE



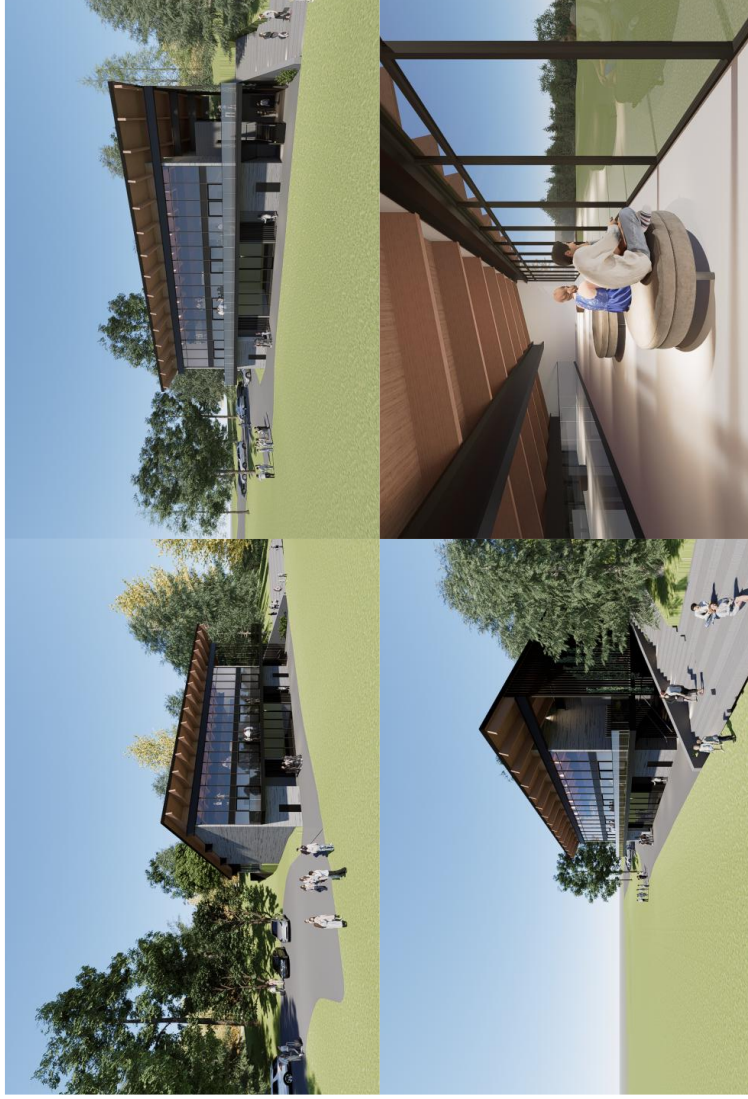
OUR CHALLENGES



Item 8.1

Attachment A

THE FUTURE





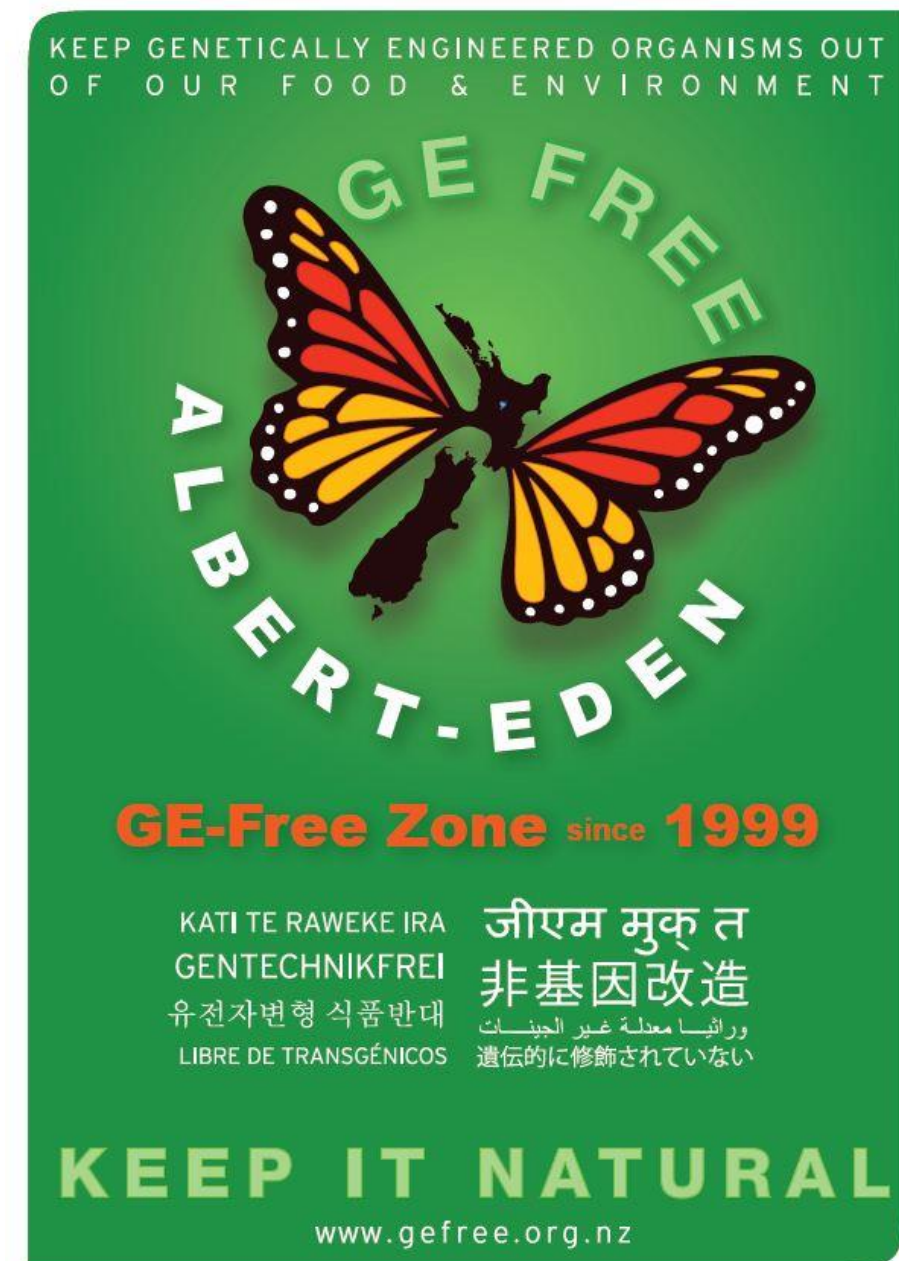
Issue of Democracy

Community concern for the public interest

History of Albert-Eden Local Board democracy and community voice to Council

Auckland GE-Free Coalition

Ratepayers Against Socialised Risk



Precautionary policies in the Unitary Plan - Chapter B10 5.1 and Chapter E 37

Came out of a proper process - The Inter Council Working Group

To manage risks to ratepayers and local communities

Not about pro or anti views on science and technology

Clean-up, contamination, remediation of land, ratepayer cost exposure, right to choose

<https://unitaryplan.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Images/Auckland%20Unitary%20Plan%20Operative/Chapter%20E%20Auckland-wide/5.%20Environmental%20Risk/E37%20Genetically%20modified%20organisms.pdf>

<https://unitaryplan.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/images/Auckland%20Unitary%20Plan%20Operative/Chapter%20B%20RPS/B10%20Environmental%20risk.pdf>

Now

New

HSNO Act and RMA

Gene Technology Act

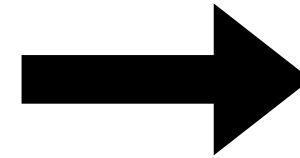
Precaution

NO Precaution

Local Government

NO Local Government

UNITARY PLAN protections



NO UNITARY PLAN protections

Socialised risk

Socialised risk

NEW costs and risk exposure to the community need to be considered by Auckland Council.

The community need the Board's moral voice.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”
attributed to Edmund Burke, 1795

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment - 'introduce civil liability'
Physicians and Scientist for Global Responsibility - 'public inquiry into risk of process'
Centre for Biosafety Research - University of Canterbury - 'make HSNO protections fit for purpose'

Item 9.2

Attachment A

Submission on Gene Technology Bill

17 February 2025



<https://pce.parliament.nz/publications/submission-on-gene-technology-bill/>

Centre for Integrated Research in Biosafety
School of Biological Sciences
Tel: +64 3 336 95597
Email: jack.heinemann@canterbury.ac.nz



Submission to the Parliament Health Committee on the Gene Technology Bill 2024

Summary analysis

- The scientific case is not made for the proposed reforms to gene technology law. The risk tiering framework is not risk proportionate. It would lower the regulatory burden but substantially increase risks to human health and the environment.
- We do not believe that replacing a process-based framework is justified because there has been no substantive analysis of the actual unique costs of current regulations or evidence provided that they impede innovation.
- Alternative process-based options that streamline compliance for work done in certified containment facilities would be more effective and affordable.
- The proposed reforms are based on idealised and superficial descriptions of gene technology. The idealised outcome of *indistinguishable from conventional breeding* is only one of many products made every time gene technology is used. The ideal outcome

<https://ir.canterbury.ac.nz/server/api/core/bitstreams/0e1aa118-5e68-4b43-b395-2a4487d90aa4/content>

PSGR
Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility

When powerful agencies hijack democratic systems.

PART I: THE CASE OF GENE TECHNOLOGY REGULATORY REFORM

ISBN 978-1-0670678-0-9

<https://psgr.org.nz/component/jdownloads/send/1-root/175-gene-tech-reforms-hijack-democracy-2025>

Issue of Democracy

The topic is related to the roles and responsibilities of the local board.

Refer to another committee - Policy and Planning

Write to The Mayor

Annual Plan - give your support to budget request for the Inter Council Working Group

Relevant staff to investigate - a workshop

Has MBIE short-circuited good process in recent government reforms?

New Zealand charity seeks public inquiries to investigate the conduct of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the responsible Minister, the Hon Judith Collins in their undertaking of Gene Technology Regulatory reform and Science System reforms.

Press Release: Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility New Zealand (PSGR).

April, 16 2025.

A New Zealand charity, the Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility New Zealand (PSGR), has reviewed official documents involved in the production of the Gene Technology Bill and New Zealand's recent science system reforms and have published two white papers that call for two separate public inquiries.

PSGR have [written to the Ombudsman](#) asking that they convene a public inquiry to assess whether officials directly undermined public law conventions and processes to pursue policies and laws in favour of the deregulation of gene editing technology. PSGR have emailed members of Parliament to advise them of the complaint to the Ombudsman.

Secondly, PSGR are also calling for a 'transparent and public inquiry' that can (a) identify the factors leading to the collapse of the capacity of New Zealand's research, science, innovation and technology system to be adequately resourced to meet the objectives of society at large; and (b) recommend how to transform it into having that capacity, and in doing so serve the public purpose and support the wellbeing of New Zealand, her people, resources and environment.

PSGR is open on the issue of whether the second, science system enquiry should be a formal inquiry or a Royal Commission but believes that people should be asking why the important role of science and research in producing knowledge for the maximum benefit of society, has been perverted by prioritising commercial returns.

PSGR have published two papers under the title: '*When powerful agencies hijack democratic systems.*' The papers allege that government documents suggest that the Minister and MBIE officials may have acted to drive policy and legislative outcomes in a manner which may be neither fair nor impartial, but biased and potentially misleading. MPs have been sent these papers and advised of the complaint to the Ombudsman.

PSGR are concerned that officials may have sidelined and undermined important issues and conventions that are essential to sustain a robust, healthy, accountable democratic nation-state, in their haste to push through gene technology and science system reforms.

Lead researcher Jodie Bruning stated:

'Evidence points to these reforms severely restricting the capacity of the new gene technology regulator, and the New Zealand science system, to conduct activities intended to serve the public good and supporting constitutional and democratic government.'

The [Part I paper, *The case of gene technology regulatory reform*](#), recommends that the [Gene Technology Bill](#) is placed on hold and that the Ombudsman undertakes a formal review into the official conduct of MBIE and Judith Collins, to establish whether this body of officials directly undermined public law conventions and processes to pursue policies and laws in favour of the deregulation of gene editing technology.

Co-author and former Crown Research Institute researcher, Dr Elvira Dommissie stated:

'The evidence suggests that the MBIE- funded Royal Society [undertook research](#) to communicate the benefits of new gene editing technologies, and used them to provide ideas for law reform. The National Party then took these recommendations and ran with them. MBIE and Judith Collins subsequently oversaw the drafting of legislation that excluded a wide range of these technologies from their proposed Bill. However, at no stage was there any formal process of assessing the risks of these excluded technologies.

This is of particular concern because if the Bill were passed, these technologies could be ramped up commercially, and released at scale. No-one would know'

PSGR are concerned that if members of Parliament (MPs) believe MBIE's assurances that the [legislation](#) is fit for purpose, that they may be being misled. There has been [little or no scientific evaluation](#) to assure MPs that the risks can ever be managed in such a way that will fulfil the purpose of the Bill, which is to 'protect the health and safety of people; and the environment'.

The [Part II paper, *The case of science system reform*](#), draws upon official documents to show how the science system reforms that are currently underway (2023-2024) have excluded any evaluation of the role of public good research in meeting the objectives of society at large. Instead, the current reforms will likely direct the RSI&T system away from optimising science and research to solve domestic problems and challenges.

Lead researcher Jodie Bruning stated:

'MBIE officials know very well that 'innovation' is a proxy term for patents. They've directed the entire science system to promise a patent first, and then if we're lucky this might trickle down into some other benefit. It's the wrong way round. New Zealand has a very big problem when the Ministry responsible for innovation and economic growth controls the science system.'

The papers point to the extraordinary conundrum New Zealand is in. The conflict-of-interest which arises when the agency for economic growth, which controls the policy and funding for the entire science system, then takes action to secure control of legislative reforms that would reduce regulatory barriers to the very 'innovations' or technologies that that agency directly funds scientists to produce.

Jodie Bruning added that:

'We've got an instance where one Ministry has extraordinary political and financial conflicts of interest, while also exercising effective control over how and what knowledge is produced for New Zealand as a nation. When that Ministry secured that massive control of the science system, it did not achieve this through an Act of Parliament, but via secondary legislation. This is an untenable situation for our science and research system, for the New Zealand people, and for our elected members.'

END.

For inquiries please email:

info@PSGR.org.nz



The Hijacking Democracy papers (released April 2025):

PSGR (2025) [When powerful agencies hijack democratic systems. Part I: The case of gene technology regulatory reform](#). Bruning, J.R., Dommissie, E.. Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility New Zealand. ISBN 978-1-0670678-0-9

PSGR (2025) [When powerful agencies hijack democratic systems. Part II: The case of science system reform](#). Bruning, J.R.. Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility New Zealand. April 2025. ISBN 978-1-0670678-1-6



HE ARA TĀMATA
CREATING GREAT PLACES
Supporting our people

Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440, New Zealand

ask.us@fndc.govt.nz

0800 920 029

fndc.govt.nz

17 February 2025

To: Committee Secretariat
Health Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Re: Gene Technology Bill

Far North District Council (FNDC) thanks the Health Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to submit on the Gene Technology Bill (the Bill).

Recommendation:

FNDC strongly recommends the removal of Clause 249 from the Bill.

Rationale:

Clause 249 proposes an amendment to Section 31 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) by adding subsection (3), which would prohibit territorial authorities from differentiating between genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and non-GMOs in their functions. This amendment would effectively prevent FNDC from regulating the release and use of GMOs within the Far North District.

Currently, FNDC regulates GMOs in alignment with community perspectives and the Northland Regional Policy Statement (RPS). The RPS includes Policy 6.1.2 – Precautionary Approach, which states:

"Adopt a precautionary approach towards the effects of climate change and introducing genetically modified organisms to the environment where they are scientifically uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potentially significantly adverse."

The GMO provisions in both our Operative District Plan and Proposed District Plan reflect this policy and became operative on 19 September 2018. At that time, there was strong support for GMO regulation, particularly from tangata whenua and other community groups. Recent submissions on the GMO provisions in the Proposed District Plan suggest that there has been little change in the balance of community views on the regulation of GMOs.

Alignment with Tino Rangatiratanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi:

The proposed Clause 249 undermines the principle of *tino rangatiratanga* (self-determination) as guaranteed under Article 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which assures Māori of the unqualified exercise of their chieftainship over their lands, villages, and all their treasures. By restricting FNDC's ability to regulate GMOs, the Bill impinges on the rights of Māori to exercise authority over their taonga (treasures), which include natural and genetic resources.

The Treaty of Waitangi provides for the exercise of *kāwanatanga* (governance) by the Crown, while actively protecting *tino rangatiratanga* of tangata whenua in respect of their natural, physical, and spiritual resources. All persons acting under the RMA must take into account the principles of the

Treaty of Waitangi (Section 8). Similar obligations are imposed on councils under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

Local Government Act 2002 Considerations:

The Local Government Act 2002 acknowledges the Crown's responsibility to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes. By removing FNDC's authority to regulate GMOs, Clause 249 would diminish the ability of Māori to participate in decisions that affect their communities and resources, contrary to the intent of the LGA.

Northland Inter-Council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options:

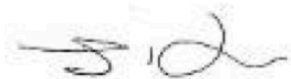
FNDC has been an active participant in the Inter-Council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options, established to respond to community concerns in the Northland region about GMOs. This collaborative effort, involving the Far North, Whangārei, and Kaipara District Councils, Auckland Council, and Northland Regional Council, has been instrumental in evaluating risks and developing management strategies for GMOs.

Conclusion:

FNDC seeks to retain the ability to regulate the release and use of GMOs in the Far North District. If the Committee recommends the deletion of Clause 249 from the Bill, it should also consider removing the other clauses in Subpart 9 of Part 6—Amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991, as these clauses would similarly restrict the authority of regional councils to regulate GMOs through district rules and district plans.

By preserving the current regulatory framework, FNDC can continue to uphold the principles of *tino rangatiratanga* and fulfil its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Local Government Act 2002, ensuring that decisions regarding GMOs reflect the values and aspirations of our communities.

Yours sincerely,



Guy Holroyd
Chief Executive Officer

Item 9.2

Attachment B

If calling ask for Nigel Bickle

File Ref: ADM-01-03-6-25-946

17 February 2025

Committee Secretariat
Health Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
he@parliament.govt.nz

Submission on the Gene Technology Bill 2024 from Hastings District Council

Introduction

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Gene Technology Bill 2024.
2. In principle, we are supportive of a legislative framework which aligns itself with the Hastings community's strategic direction and intent, which is balanced with environmental and economic outcomes. The proposed Gene Technology Bill, however, risks undermining these same matters and the Councils submission seeks to minimise that potential.
3. In particular, HDC has concerns that:
 - the bill does not contain sufficient regulations or provisions to adequately protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of the release of GMO's;
 - Hawkes Bay is heavily reliant on its primary production economy, so image, regional branding and more importantly perception is crucial. The maintenance of a clean green image, free from GMO influences, is seen as critical in attracting maximum values for produce in certain markets. Markets sensitive to potential GMO's will be lost to New Zealand exporters; and
 - the bill erodes the ability of New Zealanders and mana whenua to have a say in what risks are acceptable in their District / Region.
4. This submission seeks that the health committee:
 - Adopt a precautionary approach as HDC has done and continues to do and modify the Bill to continue to ensure that all GMO activities are contained inside certified facilities for research and development purposes;
 - Not void existing District Plan provisions that allow for GMO activities to occur within contained certified facilities such as in the Hastings District Plan.

Background

5. In 2015, HDC became the first Council in NZ to secure Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) free status via its District Plan.

6. Community sentiment surrounding the need to control outdoor activities involving Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) drove the need to investigate their inclusion in the Plan¹. GM is one of a number of applied biotechnology techniques that together are predicted to offer benefits in many sectors. However, there are risks (both known and unknown) and scientific uncertainty with respect to GM techniques. These risks could be substantial and certain consequences irreversible. GM is a relatively new and fast developing technology and its effects, particularly over the long term, are not completely understood. There is a lack of scientific certainty and/or agreement over many issues relating to GMOs ranging from the safety of GM food products to long term environmental effects and effects on ecosystems and ecological processes from releases of GMOs into the environment.
7. The Council's policy position was also supported by and aligned with Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated stance on this issue. For Ngāti Kahungunu, being a GE-Free food producing region was part of its 25-year vision² to safeguard the natural environment and its resources and is reflective of their relationship with their ancestral lands, water and taonga within their rohe. It is also consistent with their role as kaitiaki over the natural world and resources, in terms of keeping these taonga safe from damage through genetic modification.
8. GE free status supports our community's desire to protect our environment and gives our District a strong competitive advantage when promoting our products for export. The Heretaunga Plains is recognised as a horticultural powerhouse, due to its soil values and climate. The export of fruit alone earned \$471.8 million dollars for the Hastings economy in 2023³. The release of GMO's would not be compatible with certain horticultural and viticultural industries, both in a physical sense with a risk of contamination and cross – pollination and in terms of market sensitivity.
9. HDC's current policy balances environmental outcomes against economic benefits. While, HDC currently has rules in its District Plan that prohibit the outdoor release and field trials of GMO's (even with prior EPA approval) it provides for GMO's involved in laboratory research or GMO based products for medicinal or veterinary use. Therefore, restriction of laboratory research or the exploration of other beneficial technologies is not prevented. The Council's policy position is very much an informed precautionary approach.

Implications and Rationale for District Plan Provisions relating to GMOs

10. The outdoor use of GMOs can have adverse effects on people, communities, tangata whenua, social and cultural wellbeing, the environment and the economy. The introduction of these provisions to the District Plan reflects the level of control desired by the community to manage the effects of GMO land use activities.
11. Community input during the preparation of the District Plan, included food producers raising concerns regarding the District's international reputation and marketability associated with GMOs. No evidence has been provided by GMO proponents, within the last 10 years, indicating a viable market for GMO products which could not be tested under our current permitted activity provisions (i.e within certified contained laboratory facilities).

¹ This included a Colmar Brunton Poll commissioned by Pure HB which identified that of the 500 Hawkes Bay people questioned, 84% of those who responded wanted the region to remain GM-free.

² www.kahungunu.iwi.nz/files/ugd/b47397_5b6348b7ec4540b7b6443df338112a32.pdf

³ <https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/hastings-district/economy/exports?compare=new-zealand> (Highlights for Hastings District 2023)



Hastings District Plan Objective & Policy Framework relating to GMOs

12. Currently HDC has the following objective and policy framework that underpins the existing prohibitive status of the outdoor release and field trials of GMOs:

OBJECTIVE HSO4

To protect the community and their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and environment from the adverse effects associated with the outdoor release or field testing of Genetically Modified Organisms through the adoption of a precautionary approach.

POLICY HSP4

To adopt a precautionary approach to the management of [Genetically Modified Organisms](#) by prohibiting the field testing or [release](#) of a [Genetically Modified Organism](#).

POLICY HSP5

To adopt a resource management framework for the management of [Genetically Modified Organisms](#) (GMOs) that is [District](#) specific taking into account environmental, economic and social well-being considerations.

Explanation

In addition to the environmental risks associated with the [release](#) of GMOs, there are economic risks caused by the sensitivity of export markets for high value produce to potential GMO contamination. The export of high value produce is critical to Hastings [District](#) as one of New Zealand's most significant horticultural and viticultural areas; agriculture is also an important component of the [District](#)'s economy. Providing for the wellbeing of the community by giving certainty in prohibiting the field testing or [release](#) of GMOs is therefore justified. It is considered that the [prohibited](#) status is necessary to reflect social and cultural attitudes amongst the Hastings community. This is founded on a 2012 Colmar Brunton survey that found 84% of respondents believe that Hawke's Bay should remain a GE free food producing region. Although regulating GMOs in the [District Plan](#) could be considered a duplication of the HSNO Act 1996, the Hastings [District](#) community in seeking a precautionary approach, has requested greater certainty than can be provided by HSNO.

POLICY HSP6

To review the Plan provisions relating to [Genetically Modified Organisms](#) (GMOs), particularly if there is new information on benefits and/or adverse [effects](#) of a [Genetically Modified Organism](#) activity and/or there is a general community acceptance to the [use](#) of [Genetically Modified Organisms](#) that have proven to be safe and economically beneficial without adversely affecting the [environment](#) and the general social and economic wellbeing of the community.

Explanation

The necessity and relevance of the [prohibited](#) activity status for field testing and [release](#) of GMOs will be reconsidered at the next plan review. If in the meantime GMO [use](#) is proven to be safe and advantageous and the community is accepting that a precautionary approach is no longer warranted, then their [prohibited](#) activity status may be overturned by a plan change. This could either be in relation to GMOs in general, or to a specific GMO for which there is a demand for in the community and which poses a low risk with regard to adverse [effects](#) and to the economic viability of the production and marketing of GE free produce.

Opportunity to Review District Plan Provisions

13. The District Plan provisions as written recognise that the community's attitude may change and/or there may be future GMO development opportunities that could result in a net benefit to the District and where the effects can be satisfactorily managed. For this reason a review policy has been built into these provisions to ensure regular consideration of new information on the benefits and/or adverse effects of a GMO activity which might become available. No approach has been made by GMO proponents providing information which suggests new information, economic benefits or requiring an effects assessment to evoke this review clause.
14. On this basis, the current policy approach is still considered appropriate for Hastings and one which allows more broadly a balance of competing considerations.
15. We advocate that the health committee take this same precautionary approach in respect of the Gene Technology Bill provisions.

Conclusion

16. HDC again is thankful for the opportunity to submit on this issue.
17. The contact person as an address for service in relation to this submission is:
Anna Summerfield
Environmental Policy Manager
Hastings District Council
Private Bag 9002
Hastings 4156
email: annaes@hdc.govt.nz

Kind regards,



Nigel Bickle
Chief Executive
nigelb@hdc.govt.nz



BIG GAY OUT 2025 Impact Report

Albert Eden Local Board

Big Gay Out 2025

Ngā mihi - Thank You

Albert Eden Local Board, your support at Big Gay Out 2025 was amazing – thank you!

You helped us celebrate 25 years of the largest, gayest event in Aotearoa. Your partnership made this year so special!

Your commitment made it possible to create and promote a sense of well-being and belonging in our Rainbow community.

This year more than **10,000 people** showed up to Big Gay Out as part of our Rainbow community or as an ally and 25% of these people were brand new – that's thousands of new engagements for you!

Big Gay Out 2025



What attendees said

- ♥ Big Gay Out rated 4.4 out of 5 overall
- ♥ 92% Said it was a safe and inclusive space and event
- ♥ 95% Said it celebrates the diversity of all of our rainbow community
- ♥ 85% stayed for more than 2 hours – you helped captivate our people!

“It makes me feel safe, excited, proud!! I experience community as the biggest benefit. To know I am not alone”

“I liked the greyhound space and the 2degrees dance thing”

“It makes me feel happy and valued as who I am. I don't feel pressure be anything but myself. I received a good mental boost as well as some goodies from stalls.”

Big Gay Out 2025



