

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** - 8B – GMO Hearing Waikato District Plan.

**HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS BY COMMISSIONERS OF THE WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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EVIDENCE OF KATHY BENTHAM ON BEHALF OF  
GE FREE NEW ZEALAND

Dated 19 December 2019

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Te Aroha

## INTRODUCTION

1. I am Kate Bentham,
2. I am an Organic Dairy Farmer with cows and goats.
3. My Organic dairy farm is Organically Certified
4. I market my milk, meat and pasture as GMO free,
5. I oppose to any attempt to release or research GMO grass species
6. We are also Dairy Goat farmers.
7. Our Co-operative features prominently amongst the highest revenue producers in the Waikato Region.
8. We have an exclusive range of baby formulas, which is marketed as grass fed, GMO Free.
9. The economy of the whole of the region and the whole of NZ relies heavily on agriculture.
10. The exclusiveness of a product remains to be our clean green image, and in years to our low carbon food production based on grass. A large part of this is 'grass fed'
11. My research shows a preference for GMO free in food. Rather like A2 milk, which is gaining huge traction regardless of large amounts of research to back the claims up.
12. Neglect to keep trials of GE free brassica contained is well documented. Human error is all too familiar to all of us.
13. We can't afford to have GE grasses in our ecosystem. We are doing fine without them!

Kathy Bentham  
19/12/2019

Te Aroha