

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of a further submission on the proposed Waikato District Plan by the New Zealand Forest Research Institute Limited

Scion Submissions (Highlights)

24th January 2020

**TOPIC: GENETIC ENGINEERING AND GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS - Hearing 8B**

1. Defining, let alone regulating, GMOs is not an easy task.
2. Identifying GMOs is not an easy task
3. New Zealand is not GM or GE free.
4. There is scientific consensus that the modification technologies carry no inherent risks.
5. Genetic Modification is just a set of modern breeding tools. The traits in the resulting organisms are more important than the process by which they are bred.
6. The benefits of GM are significant. In light of the global challenges we face biotechnology including GMOs could be viewed as essential from a global perspective.
7. Risks associated with released products internationally have been shown to be negligible and any risk need to be viewed in context of the risks that the environment is currently subject to. The EPA process means only organisms of low and negligible risk will be in the Waikato.
8. GMO production co-exists with traditional and organic farming with no significant problems in many countries. The issues raised in some parties' evidence such as herbicide resistance, toxic swedes etc are not GMO related – herbicide resistance is a consequence of herbicide use not GMOs, the swedes weren't GMOs/NBTs they were chemical mutagens.
9. GM is an established technology with approved GMOs having an extensive history of benefit.
10. Biotechnology is a key tool (and part of the natural progression of knowledge and technology). It is a necessary tool to cope with the global challenges facing the planet and New Zealand. We are not immune by dint of our relative isolation! Our survival and economy continue to be built on our primary industry base which is about growing things and making money out of the products. It is also in many cases the only viable tool to defend from the increased pest and disease threat to our primary industries that are consequences of human mobility and climate change.