



# GE Free New Zealand

*In Food And Environment Inc.*

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Tēnā koutou Commisioners,

GE Free NZ highlights with power point

1. (slide 3) The RMA principles are to
  - To protect the health of the Community.
  - To safeguard the Environment.
  - To avoid, mitigate adverse effects
  - To meet the needs of future generations.
2. (slide 4) The HSNO is set up to monitor and ensure government oversight in relation to the development, field testing and conditional release conditions. If/when a full release is given, HSNO oversight is unable to place any controls, the RMA and common law are the only avenues communities have resort too.
3. (slide 5) In this the Commissioners are asked to look ahead to emerging issues and address land use effects that might lie ahead in the future. One of the main aspects are the unknown problems that might have adverse effects on their communities health and economic livliehood, culture, and environment.
4. (slide 6) We would like to highlight the importance of weather extremes experienced over the last few years. With the release of GMO's does the council have the requisite protections to address to the unknown, unexpected and unforeseen effects of GM contamination?
5. (slide 7) Regarding Contamination. ERMA has approved 7 field trials of which the first was on sheep in the Waikato. This field trial was signed off and privately sold within 1 month of the animals being autoclaved. There were no post monitoring protections put in place. The Whakamaru field trial is a contaminated site. The ashes are in the pit under the water, The Whakamaru river flows only 150 metres away. No clean up or studies have been conducted to on any effects on the soil or water table or river from leaching.
6. (slide 8) The Ruakura GM animal field test site report the horrific problems that the trial has faced. Yet, the information has been difficult to access and if GE

Free NZ had not written this report the knowledge would have been forgotten in the archives.

7. (slide 9). Some of the field trials are held in secret sites, like the brassica one. It took two members of public NGO's to raise concern over the serious breach of flowering GE plant as the monitors and scientist responsible for the trial were on holiday. If trials cannot keep GMO controls, how is a release going to protect communities from adverse effects?
8. This breach was in spite of the assurances given on the imposition of appropriate monitoring conditions on approval holders. So it is a little difficult to have unresounding confidence in assurances that HSNO comprehensively covers and protects in a *"comprehensive and consistent national-level framework applies that is specifically tailored towards protecting the environment and the health and safety of people and communities from the unique adverse effects of GMOs"* (MFEpt. 2).
9. In the last five years mounting evidence of harm is arising from GMO release. 15 years since the first untested, GMO was commercialised.
10. (slide 10,11,12,13) Cumulative, permanent, adverse effects are on animal and human health linked to GMO's and pesticides. Increasingly new evidence of harm from GMO/GE to farming systems, after approval, like Weed Resistance, Insect tolerance, pesticide harm are all affecting negatively on farmers crops and communities.
11. (slide 14) A recent survey among Organic Farmers in the US was released the findings of contamination, crop rejection, costs on yield from delaying planting and regulatory testing, auditing added to a loss of up to \$50,000. Our members do not believe that is affordable.
12. (slide 15) The Rodale report found Organic systems were
  - nearly three times more profitable than conventional systems.
  - organic wheat netting \$835USD/ac/yr.
  - showed resilience and stability, with higher yields in drought years compared to both GM and conventional farming systems.
13. (slide 16) This mounting evidence of permanent, cumulative adverse effects is mounting each year making the
  - Maori whenua, tikanga and taonga unprotected
  - Contamination risk to flora and fauna
  - Financial risks to local bodies are unacceptable.
  - Financial risks to Landowners unacceptable.
  - Environmental risk effects are unacceptable
14. So the uncertainty and unknown risks are must be dealt with in a precautionary manner. It is pleasing that the council plan is considering the issue

for its plan. This precautionary approach which protects farmers and allows them to carry on farming.

15. (slide 17) We ask the WDP to adopt a precautionary approach to the land use of GMO's and place rules, policies and objectives in their plan.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa  
Claire Bleakley on behalf of  
GE Free NZ

**All appendices and references have been provided in previous submissions.**