

Aide memoire: Draft Cabinet Paper - Regulation of gene technologies policy decisions

Date submitted: 18 July 2024

Tracking number: BRF-5069

Security level: Policy and Privacy

Actions sought from ministers	
<i>Name and position</i>	<i>Action sought</i>
To Hon Penny SIMMONDS Minister for the Environment	For noting only

Appendices and attachments
N/A

Key contacts at Ministry for the Environment			
<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Cell phone</i>	<i>First contact</i>
Principal Author	Richard Souness		
Responsible Manager	Sarah Kenward	0272889374	
General Manager	Shaun Lewis	0211012446	✓

Aide memoire: Draft Cabinet Paper - Regulation of gene technologies policy decisions

Purpose

1. Minister Collins KC has provided you with the draft Cabinet Paper “Regulation of Gene Technologies – Policy Decisions” and 3 appendices for Ministerial Consultation with feedback due by 29 July. This aide memoire provides you with the Ministry’s view on the Cabinet paper.

Background

2. Minister Collins KC, as Minister for Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, has been delegated authority to proceed with a Bill to change how genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are regulated in New Zealand. This Bill will be introduced into the House in December 2024. This Cabinet paper seeks Cabinet approval on policy decisions and requests approval for drafting of the Bill to begin.

Review of Cabinet Paper and Appendices

3. The Cabinet Paper is consistent with decisions made by the Gene Technology Ministerial Group and there were no significant deviations from what had already been discussed.
4. Of note is that the draft Cabinet paper seeks a decision from Cabinet on whether the regulator should be located as either a new branded business unit within MBIE, or within the EPA. The draft Cabinet paper does not recommend either option.
5. Ministry officials provided feedback on an earlier version of the draft Cabinet paper on 2 July 2024. This feedback has resulted in an updated Appendix 1 and more fulsome recommendations of the Cabinet Paper. Specifically, Ministry feedback resulted in the inclusion of recommendations 35 and 36 in the draft Cabinet Paper and paragraph 143.1 in Appendix 1.¹
6. Ministry officials also gave targeted minor feedback, which was considered by staff at MBIE.
7. Overall, Ministry officials are supportive of this version of the draft Cabinet paper and have no concerns. Ministry officials also reviewed the regulatory impact statement and had no significant comments.

¹ The recommendations and paragraph numbers has been updated on 1 August 2024 to reflect the updated Cabinet paper.

Next steps

8. Ministry officials are drafting a briefing to you about the consequential changes to the HSNO Act that the Gene Technology Bill will necessitate (as noted under recommendations 35 and 36 of the draft Cabinet paper). This briefing will seek your decision on relevant policy settings. This will support drafting of the Bill.

Signatures



Shaun Lewis
General Manager – Waste Systems

**Climate Change Mitigation and
Resource Efficiency**

18 July 2024

Hon Penny SIMMONDS
Minister for the Environment

Date