Appendix 2:   Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan

This appendix reprints extracts relevant to GMOs from the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan - Tai Tumu Tai Pari Tai Ao.[1]

15 Ngaa Taonga Maaori tuku iho me te Aarai Taiao – Natural Heritage and Biosecurity

15.1.9   Genetic modification (GM) remains a controversial issue both globally and nationally. It is vital that Waikato-Tainui views and policies on the potential adverse consequences of GM are clearly outlined and recognised. Most importantly, Waikato-Tainui wants to avoid any disruption caused by Genetically Modified Organisms to the balance of indigenous ecosystems and/or to cultural beliefs and the whakapapa of taonga species.

Objective – new organisms and Genetically Modified Organisms

15.3.5 A precautionary approach to the introduction of new organisms and GMOs shall be adopted.

Policy – Protection of natural heritage from risk of new organisms

15.3.5.1 Applications for new organisms and GMOs must demonstrate that there are no risks to humans, indigenous ecosystems, indigenous species, or primary production.

Methods

(a) Applicants will engage with Waikato-Tainui prior to the submission of applications to the Environmental Protection Authority and/or other regulatory agency.

(b) The relevant authorities will work with Waikato-Tainui to ensure that all cultural and spiritual beliefs are appropriately recognised, respected and thoroughly considered.

(c) All efforts must be made by the relevant authorities to ensure that the effects of current and future introduced pests, new organisms, and Genetically Modified Organisms are minimised on taonga species, areas of significant indigenous vegetation, spiritual and/or cultural significance, and on the ecosystems in which these species and areas of significance occur.

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[1] Waikato-Tainui website, https://www.waikatotainui.com/services/taiao/tai-tumu-tai-pari - accessed November 2019.