



TAINUI O TAINUI SUBMISSION TO THE PROPOSED WAIKATO DISTRICT PLAN

Submitter: Angeline Greensill
Organisation: Tainui
Address: 86 Riria Kereopa Memorial Drive
Whaingaroa 3297
Email: tainuihapu.environmental@gmail.com

Introduction

1. My name is Angeline Greensill. I appear today in my capacity as the Environmental spokesperson for the Tainui Hapu (12) of the Tainui iwi of Whaingaroa Moana; as a member of Te Waka Kai Ora (Maori producers of Hua Parakore who submitted evidence to Wai 262, a treaty claim whose report Ko Aotearoa Tenei traverses Genetic Modification; and as a member of Nga Wahine Tiaki o Te Ao, who made submissions to the Royal Commission on GMO's in 2000.
2. In the same year, concerns about risks to the Earth's future led to the Earth Charter being signed. I have appended the charter, which states: "When knowledge is limited apply a precautionary approach Place the burden of proof on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant harm, and make the responsible parties liable for environmental harm."
3. In 1999 I submitted against an AGResearch application to insert human genes into cows to establish a transgenic herd to supposedly create a cure for Multiple Sclerosis in humans. 20 years later we are still waiting while harm continues to be done to the numerous animals created as living laboratories for human purposes.

4. My main concerns, regarding the adverse effects on tikanga, whanaungatanga, mauri, whakapapa, wairua, mana, kaitiakitanga and rangatiratanga, persist to this day.

Submission

5. Having attended several Hui on genomic research and Gene Editing, facilitated by Research Organisations and Ministry of Business Enterprise and Innovation officials, I understand that the science is not precise and unexpected consequences and adverse effects on the mauri of the whenua occur. A recent case involving unexpected genes in calves was reported¹. Another article regarded GMO's as "invasive species with an ability to spread causing damage to the environment, the economy, our health and the way we live".²
6. Given the common occurrence of adverse effects, the precautionary principle as outlined in the Earth Charter and Mr Hamilton's evidence should be applied. GMO's are out of the lab in some countries but for a number of reasons they need to remain in containment in Aotearoa.
7. I support his submission in its entirety as he traverses matters raised in the Section 42 Report, Case law, Iwi environmental management Plans, CRISPR and other matters that concern us as whanau, hapu and iwi.
8. In my original submission on the Proposed District Plan, I suggested that a chapter be added on Genetically Modified Organisms. I note that Mr Hamilton has appended an example of one to his submission to assist you in your deliberations. I support the inclusion of such a chapter.
9. Chapter 5 Rural resources includes soil, natural ecosystems, fresh and ground water which must be protected for current and future

¹ <https://www.independentsciencenews.org/news/fda-finds-unexpected-antibiotic-resistance-genes-in-gene-edited-dehorned-cattle/>

²

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/8+GMO/FMfcgxwBVgsbsLLqDBwQFxrPkvGHHBrN?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

generations. While no field trials have been officially permitted in New Zealand, experiments in containment have been ongoing since the late 1990's.

10. With the recent arrival and marketing of CRISPR and other gene editing technologies to the primary sector, it is likely during the life of the next District Plan that consents will be sought from the EPA to field trial grasses and other GMO's potentially putting taonga, primary producers, and the economy at risk from unexpected adverse effects. Within the last few months' media pressure to release genetically modified ryegrass currently being trialled in the USA, into the New Zealand rural landscape has escalated³ apparently to help with climate change.

11. If Council is committed to; 5.2.2 (a) a policy which protects - High class soils which are retained for their primary productive value and

(b) Ensures the adverse effects of activities do not compromise the physical, chemical and biological properties of high class soils; and if Council is determined to maintain or enhance the:

1. Inherent life-supporting capacity and versatility of soils, in particular high class soils;
2. The health and wellbeing of rural land and natural ecosystems;
3. The quality of surface fresh water and ground water, including their catchments and connections; and
4. Life-supporting and intrinsic natural characteristics of water bodies and coastal waters and the catchments between them, then Council has no option but to prohibit field trials or releases of GMO's into the environment.

12. In recent years, Tainui and the local community have become better informed and more concerned about the risks GMO's, pose to whenua, agriculture and to humankind. Any potential effects on humans, animals or the ecosystem, are matters that can be addressed through the RMA process.

13. Tainui support the comments in the section 42A report that Council has the ability to control the effects of GMO's on the environment.

Relief Sought

³ <https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2019/08/09/new-zealand-climate-group-says-anti-gmo-laws-hinder-development-of-sustainable-technologies/>

14. Tainui seeks provisions that prohibit the release of GMO's into the rural environment of Tainui rohe.