

Meagan Walters

From: Linda Grammer <linda.grammer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2025 2:26 pm
To: District Plan Review
Cc: Meagan Walters; Marty Robinson; Katherine Overwater
Subject: MARTIN ROBINSON submittor- submission to KDC Proposed District Plan
Attachments: 2025 04 08 Letter re Gene Technology Bill - KDC.pdf

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On behalf of my farming colleague Marty Robinson who is overseas and having trouble with both KDC submission portal and email (connectivity issues)
Thank you

SUBMISSION
Kaipara District Council
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Northland

Contact details:

Submittor
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Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission. I wish to be heard on behalf of myself and my whanau.

- I/we could not gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission**
- I am/we are not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that**
 - (a) Adversely affects the environment; and**
 - (b) Does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.**
- I/we do wish to be heard in support of our submission and would consider making a joint presentation with other like minded submitters- thank you.**

Our farming family (Robinson whanau) previously supported (and continue to support) the precautionary and prohibitive GE/GMO provisions, policies and rules in the KDC draft District Plan (ie. the KDC Exposure draft).

We share the concerns of our Kaipara farming colleagues and other Northlanders about the unacceptable omission of these precautionary and prohibitive GE/GMO provisions (as detailed in the September 2022 KDC draft District Plan/ Exposure draft). There isn't even any mention (in the KDC Proposed District Plan) of the Precautionary approach to outdoor GE/GMOs.

It is of particular concern that KDC allowed a small, secret "Working Party" of just a few councillors and a biased external RMA Expert (former NRC Cllr Mark Farnsworth) to ignore the support and constructive feedback of so many submitters (on the excellent GE/GMO provisions put in place by KDC) to the KDC draft District Plan/ Exposure Draft.

We wish to see these reinstated the KDC Proposed District Plan and the final adopted District Plan in the interest of Northland's biosecurity, wider environment, existing GM Free farmers/primary producers (in Kaipara and the wider rohe), our food sovereignty, our cultural values, economy, valuable "Northland naturally" brand, and the public health.

I'd like to personally thank KDC for its leadership on the GE/GMO issue for so many years (beginning with KDC Mayor Graeme Ramsey, and continuing for many years), KDC listening to the concerns of farmers and other ratepayers about the risks of outdoor GE/GMOs, and working with all the other councils of Northland and Auckland to achieve protection from the risks of outdoor GE/GMOs.

Have a look at the findings of the Northland/Auckland ICWP on GMOs and please act on your duty of care.

<https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Council/Council-documents/Reports/Genetic-Engineering-Review>

Do not be unduly influenced by extreme proposals and ill advised comments of the current Government of the day and act on your responsibilities in keeping with the current legislation, the findings of the ICWP on GMOs, your duty of care to farmers and other ratepayers, and existing case law. In my view, what National Party and ACT party are proposing is tantamount to economic and environmental sabotage.

There is huge opposition (as conveyed through submissions to the Gene Technology Bill) to the extreme, impractical, and undemocratic proposals in the Bill.

I am aware that a number of councils including FNDC, NRC, and Hastings District Council lodged excellent submissions opposing the Gene Technology Bill back in February. It is disappointing that KDC did not do the same (but do understand that councils were not consulted and the time frame was tight).

Please see attached a copy of Far North District Council 17 February 2025 submission opposing the controversial, impractical, and undemocratic Gene Technology Bill

I note that this is not the first time that central government (under the National party) has tried to strip local councils of their authority / jurisdiction as regards outdoor GE/GMO experiments, field trials, and releases.

see

24 Feb 2025 Northern Advocate

Northland Regional Council slams Gene Technology Bill's threat to GMO-protected zone

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/northern-advocate/news/northland-regional-council-slams-gene-technology-bills-threat-to-gmo-protected-zone/U47MLXJTQBFM5L5KRKQISZRWXI/>

picked up in the Farming Press

NZ Farmers Weekly

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.nz/politics/northland-council-slams-gene-bills-threat-to-gmo-protected-zone/>

***see also
Radio NZ
Sept 2016 item**

Environment Minister Nick Smith has been accused of blatant scaremongering as he moves to stop local councils from controlling genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their districts.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/312414/environment-minister-accused-of-gmo-beat-up>

Relief sought:

Reinstate / include the precautionary and prohibitive GE/GMO provisions, policies, and rules in the KDC Proposed District plan (consistent with the original wording contained in the KDC draft District Plan/ Exposure draft). We urge KDC to act in keeping with the findings of the Northland/ Auckland ICWP on GMOs, and the direction clearly given in the operative Northland Regional Policy Statement (RPS) on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

I wish to be heard. Please give me advance notice of any hearing that is scheduled so I can participate fully.

Copy of FNDC submission to the controversial, impractical, and undemocratic Gene Technology Bill

17 February 2025

**To: Committee Secretariat
Health Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160**

Re: Gene Technology Bill

Far North District Council (FNDC) thanks the Health Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to submit on the Gene Technology Bill (the Bill).

Recommendation:

FNDC strongly recommends the removal of Clause 249 from the Bill.

Rationale:

Clause 249 proposes an amendment to Section 31 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) by adding subsection (3), which would prohibit territorial authorities from differentiating between genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and non-GMOs in their functions. This amendment would effectively prevent FNDC from regulating the release and use of GMOs within the Far North District.

Currently, FNDC regulates GMOs in alignment with community perspectives and the Northland Regional Policy Statement (RPS). The RPS includes Policy 6.1.2 – Precautionary Approach, which states:

"Adopt a precautionary approach towards the effects of climate change and introducing genetically modified organisms to the environment where they are scientifically uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potentially significantly adverse."

The GMO provisions in both our Operative District Plan and Proposed District Plan reflect this policy and became operative on 19 September 2018. At that time, there was strong support for GMO regulation, particularly from tangata whenua and other community groups. Recent submissions on the GMO provisions in the Proposed District Plan suggest that there has been little change in the balance of community views on the regulation of GMOs.

Alignment with Tino Rangatiratanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi:

The proposed Clause 249 undermines the principle of tino rangatiratanga (self-determination) as guaranteed under Article 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which assures Māori of the unqualified exercise of their chieftainship over their lands, villages, and all their treasures. By restricting FNDC's ability to regulate GMOs, the Bill impinges on the rights of Māori to exercise authority over their taonga (treasures), which include natural and genetic resources.

The Treaty of Waitangi provides for the exercise of kāwanatanga (governance) by the Crown, while actively protecting tino rangatiratanga of tangata whenua in respect of their natural, physical, and spiritual resources. All persons acting under the RMA must take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Section 8). Similar obligations are imposed on councils under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

Local Government Act 2002 Considerations:

The Local Government Act 2002 acknowledges the Crown's responsibility to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes. By removing FNDC's authority to regulate GMOs, Clause 249 would diminish the ability of Māori to participate in decisions that affect their communities and resources, contrary to the intent of the LGA.

Northland Inter-Council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options:

FNDC has been an active participant in the Inter-Council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options, established to respond to community concerns in the Northland region about GMOs. This collaborative effort, involving the Far North, Whangārei, and Kaipara District Councils, Auckland Council, and Northland Regional Council, has been instrumental in evaluating risks and developing management strategies for GMOs.

Conclusion:

FNDC seeks to retain the ability to regulate the release and use of GMOs in the Far North District. If the Committee recommends the deletion of Clause 249 from the Bill, it should also consider removing the other clauses in Subpart 9 of Part 6—Amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991, as these clauses would similarly restrict the authority of regional councils to regulate GMOs through district rules and district plans.

By preserving the current regulatory framework, FNDC can continue to uphold the principles of tino rangatiratanga and fulfil its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Local Government Act 2002, ensuring that decisions regarding GMOs reflect the values and aspirations of our communities.

Yours sincerely,

**Guy Holroyd
Chief Executive Officer
FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL"**