

Meagan Walters

From: Haumi 24 <kojodiahau@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2025 4:19 pm
To: District Plan Review
Subject: District Plan Submission.
Attachments: Kaipara GE Free (1).pdf

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Hi Team, This submission is on behalf of my mother Sharna Sutherland.
Her email is as follows sutherlandsharna@gmail.com. Her phone contact is 094312299. She was having difficulty sending it to you with her phone so asked me to email it to you. Thanks for giving her the opportunity to submit,
Kind Regards Jodi Ellis

Submission to: Kaipara District Council Proposed District Plan
KDC

Name of submitter: Sharna Sutherland

Contact details: 09 431 2299

I wish to be heard

In 1997 I purchased a share of the Otamatea Eco Village in Kaiwaka. One of the principal reasons I chose to relocate to this area was because of the GE free status of Kaipara and Northland . It is of utmost importance to me and my family that the KDC assure us, with absolute certainty, that they will, in this Proposed District Plan, bring back the precautionary and prohibitive GE/GMO provisions, policies, and rules which were in the Council's earlier draft District Plan. This would once again calibrate Kaipara District Council in unison with all of the Councils from Auckland north. It is important for you, as our council, to note that WDC, NRC, FNDC and Auckland Council have maintained operational GE Free status in their Plans .

I was horrified to hear that the Coalition Government is proposing to strip councils of their democratic right to represent their regions farmers, growers and ratepayers wish to maintain their GE Free status. Although I am completely appalled by the extreme, impractical and undemocratic proposals in the Gene Technology Bill the truth is this Bill will probably not pass, just like the National Party has previously tried to pass such controversial and destructive Bills. As our council, Kaipara District Council needs to act on a local level and protect us as ratepayers, as well as it's environment and biosecurity. I note that Northland Regional Council and Far North District Council wrote strong submissions opposing the Gene Technology Bill...why did KDC not do the same?

It is absolutely crucial to our identity as "GE Free Northland" and "Northland , Naturally" as consumers, producers and exporters of GE Free produce that KDC does not become an outlier and threaten our region's

earning potential . As an island nation, New Zealand has a unique position of maintaining GE pastures and crops, without the high risk of cross contamination. This allows New Zealand farmers to claim and label their produce as GE free. This is a huge benefit to NZ exporters as there is a big global market for GE free food. Currently Northland benefits hugely from being GE Free.

It is imperative that our region's biosecurity, wider environment, economy, and existing GM free farmers/ primary producers, including conventional, IPM, regenerative, and organic are all protected from the risks that outdoor GE/GMO experiments, field trials or releases bring. It is alarming that this District Council is leaving out discussing GE in its Proposed District Plan. It makes me wonder who actually benefits from such an omission? As I suspected, it is the biotech companies who stand to benefit from something that has such extraordinary costs to our health , our wealth and our environment. Jon Carapiet from GE Free NZ pointed out in an interview on Reality Check radio on 13 Feb 2025 how the biotechnology industries benefit from this adjustment in legislation. He commented, "They're being enabled by this bill but there's no precautionary principle to balance that . There's no liability on them to encourage them to comply or to encourage them to be extra safe. The risk is on the public and the environment with no mandatory insurance required. It is the public taxpayers and ratepayers who will pay when things go wrong. And things do go wrong." I , as a ratepayer certainly cannot bear the cost of the removal of the precautionary principle with the resulting contamination running rampant by means of all the known vectors of pollen, seeds, wind, soils, waterways, machinery, animals, insects, extreme weather events (including but not limited to floods), and human error. Farmers /landowners and their valuable enterprises need protection because these vectors have no respect for boundaries.

KDC needs to step up and meet the challenges we are facing on our planet. As I stated earlier, our country is unique in being an island. Therefore we need to protect our environment by ensuring we have a District Plan that gives us as ratepayers and residents a future that is worth

living for. We have a right to know what is in our food, a right that our food is healthy and nourishing, that our environment is clean and safe and that the KDC is taking active measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We do not need Northland to be cleared of mangroves, we need councillors and leadership that has the wellbeing of us , the people and our piece of Papatūānuku at heart. That means ensuring the Kaipara District stays GE Free. As a ratepayer I look forward to the Proposed District Plan being adjusted accordingly.

Sharna Sutherland.