



10 July 2025

Jody Bruning
Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility (PSGR)
New Zealand Charitable Trust
info@psgr.org.nz

Tēnā koe Jodie,

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 16 June 2025, which was sent directly to elected members of Hutt City Council. As the request falls within the scope of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), Council is responding on behalf of its elected members.

Your request sought a collective response from Councillors to six questions regarding gene editing technologies, the proposed Gene Technology Bill, and its implications for public safety, regulation, monitoring, local democratic control, and consultation processes. Specifically, you asked:

- 1. What concerns do Councillors hear from your constituents about gene editing technologies in food and the environment?*
- 2. Have Councillors been made aware that there has been no risk assessment, economic assessment or cost-benefit assessment to assess the safety of the proposed Gene Technology Bill, including to structure some gene editing technologies and organisms completely outside of regulation?*

3. *Have Councillors been advised that the decision to remove the precautionary principle/approach was not made based on a review of best global practice?*
4. *Are Councillors aware that the gene edited technologies and organisms that following enactment of this Bill, that would be outside of regulation would never be monitored or declared?*
5. *How do you feel about the potential loss of local democratic control over GMO decisions in your region?*
6. *How might mayors collectively respond if the Gene Technology Bill overrides existing local precautionary and GMO policies without consultation (i.e. early-stage stakeholder consultation did not include elected members of TLAs)?*

Answer:

We shared your request with elected members. Councillors have not reported receiving constituent concerns regarding gene editing technologies in food and the environment.

Additionally, we can confirm that Council does not hold information on this matter. Therefore, we are refusing your request under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA, as the information requested does not exist.

Please note that under the LGOIMA, Council is not required to create new information, compile information that is not held, or respond to hypothetical questions or requests for opinions. Accordingly, questions that seek personal views, hypothetical scenarios, or information not currently held by Council fall outside the scope of the Act.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [How to make a complaint | Ombudsman New Zealand](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases | Hutt City Council](#)

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebekah'.

Rebekah van der Splinter
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy