

OIR: 2425/1403

11 July 2025



Tēnā koe [redacted],

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

Thank you for your email of **16 June 2025** requesting the following information:

Request to Councillors (to be answered as one response from Councillors):

1. *What concerns do Councillors hear from your constituents about gene editing technologies in food and the environment?*

We have consulted with the Mayor and Councillors on this question, and they have not identified any correspondence on this topic. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of the Act as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, they cannot be found.

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?*

Councillors receive updates on key legislative changes that are relevant to their role in local government. This legislation is not a key part of local government business and no specific briefings or workshops have been provided on this bill.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

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?***

Please see response to question 2 above.

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?***

Please see response to question 2 above.

5. ***How do you feel about the potential loss of local democratic control over GMO decisions in your region?***

The information you are seeking in this case is not held by Council but would need to be created in order to respond to your request. The LGOIMA does not require the creation of information or the provision of opinions, accordingly, this part of your request is refused.

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)?***

Please see response to question 5 above.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi,



Te-Aroha Jennings
Acting General Counsel
Te Kaitohutohu Ture Whānui