



Findings and Recommendations

Parliamentary Working Group

The Workforce and Gene Technologies in Aotearoa New Zealand

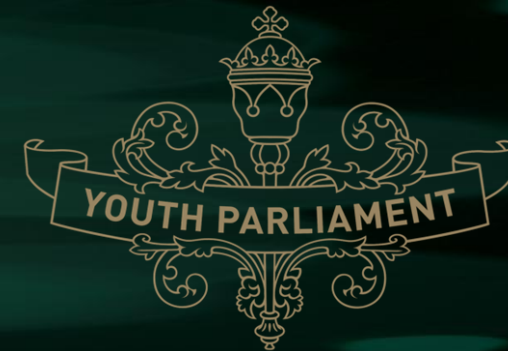
Ministry for Primary Industries

Members of the PWG



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Inquiry Topic



How can we get the right people with the knowledge and expertise required to support GeneTech reforms in Aotearoa New Zealand?

The PWG considered

- Who are the scientists and innovators in Aotearoa New Zealand currently working in GeneTech?
- How do we attract young people to get interested in genetic sciences?
- What kind of support do scientists require to develop the knowledge and technologies that will benefit Aotearoa New Zealand?

Key findings and insights



Based on community engagement and discussions here at Parliament, the PWG has identified several key findings and insights:

Education

Awareness

**Economic
Impacts**

Medicine

**Researched
Projects**

Representation

KEY FINDINGS (*Education*)



Education Issues

- Current lack of visibility for Genetic career pathways
- Access to educational resources that minimise mistrust in rural communities needs to be improved
- Uniformed public awareness and understanding of gene technologies needs to be more valued

Goals

- To educate individuals around information within the reforms such as the difference between genetic modification and editing
- To increase education around processes, risks, and benefits for more informed communities
 - To break down the stigma surrounding GeneTech for increased industry incentives

Suggestions

- Increased understanding through education and specialised promotion + scholarships across disciplines.
- Community outreach of careers promotion programmes and organisations

KEY FINDINGS *(Economic Impacts)*



Economic Issues

- Existing gap in well informed understanding of GMOs and their economic implications on rural communities
- Lack of consultation and input from key economic stakeholders in regards to impacts on them and their businesses

Goals

- To consider the impacts of GeneTech on the reputation of Aotearoa New Zealand products
- To promote the traceability of GeneTech products and create a distinct separation from non-GenTech products
- To clarify the impact of GeneTech on the economy and individual businesses/industries

Suggestions

- Creation of a board of farmers, academics, officials, and experts to consider issues relevant to GeneTech
- Increased transparency for impact to Aotearoa New Zealand trade and the relations with foreign markets

KEY FINDINGS *(Non-farming Genetics)*



Issues

- Universities currently lack incentivisation to invest in genetic research due to restrictive laws and inaccessible Jargon
- Lack of specialist technology and equipment for non-trivial GeneTech research

Goals

- To advocate for more qualified individuals taking personal or economic incentives and provide advancements to relevant education systems
- To encourage financing of GeneTech research in institutions such as universities, and Crown Research Institutes, allowing Aotearoa New Zealand to perform at the global level

Suggestions

- Robust, pre-planned advancements given to research institutes to provide the basis for innovation
- Provide alternative incentives and expand academic research beyond farming-based innovations

Recommendations



From the PWG's findings, the following recommendations should be considered to support GeneTech reforms in Aotearoa New Zealand:

One	Education We recommend that the Government invests in targeted funding in community outreach and public awareness of gene technology, as well as investment into specialised scholarships in order to provide the the motivation and opportunity for individuals to explore a genetic pathway.
Two	Economic Impacts We recommend Government creates a board of qualified individuals to advise Parliament on how best to approach genetic legislation from an economic perspective encouraging a more cohesive industry.
Three	Non-farming Genetics We recommend Government clarify genetic research laws in order to incentivise genetic technology research in both the private and public sectors.