[*When filling in this template, please remember to delete all the sentences in square brackets*]



**Information about making a submission: Gene Technology Bill**

DairyNZ has prepared this template to support farmers in submitting to a Select Committee process. This template is intended to help with drafting a submission representing any views – support, do not support, concerned.

*Gene Technology Bill 2024*

The Government is consulting on the Gene Technology Bill, designed to establish a new regulatory regime for gene technology and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). For more information see:

* [Gene Technology Bill - New Zealand Parliament](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCHEA_SCF_22059628-B0CC-4931-5E07-08DD18A12BFB/gene-technology-bill)
* [Gene technologies - DairyNZ | DairyNZ](https://www.dairynz.co.nz/regulation/policy/genetic-technologies/)

*Information is publicly released*

**Submissions are publicly released and published to the Parliament website**. Only your name or organisation’s name is required on a submission. Please keep your contact details separate, as if they are included on the submission they will become publicly available when the submission is released. When you submit online, you enter your contact details separately.

*Communicating your position*

While it is best to keep contact and private details out of your submission, it is helpful to describe your background and what impact the proposed changes could have on your farm. Submissions from affected New Zealanders (positively or negatively) have impactful as they demonstrate the realities of policy changes. Outlining how and why changes will impact you will help the committee understand the benefits or challenges as well as any unintended consequences.

*Speaking in support of your submission*

It is possible to elect to speak in support of your submission. This involves making an oral submission to the Select Committee. This can be done in person or online. There are sometimes limited spots for oral submissions so you may not be given the opportunity if you do elect to be heard in support of your submission. If you wish to speak to your submission, please state this clearly.

*DairyNZ submission*

DairyNZ will be making a submission on the Gene Technology Bill, focusing on the risks and opportunities to the dairy sector. Individual submissions from farmers and other primary producers will offer valuable insights to the Select Committee by highlighting direct impacts and potential risks/opportunities.

**Submissions close at 11.59 pm on Monday 17 February 2025**

[*Date*]

Committee Secretariat
Health Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Phone:04 817 9520
he@parliament.govt.nz

[*Start with a sentence stating your name and concise background for example, “My name is David Jones, and I am a dairy farmer in the Wairarapa”*]. I appreciate the opportunity to submit on the Gene Technology Bill 2024.

[*Choose one of the following statements or write your own*]

* I support the proposed Gene Technology Bill for the reasons outlined below.
* I do not support the proposed Gene Technology Bill for the reasons outlined below.
* I have concerns about the proposed Gene Technology Bill for the reasons outlined below.

[*Below are example paragraphs that could be used if they align with your views.* ***Note that differing views are covered in the bullet point examples below******so do not include all the points together****. Add to these with your own details – these are thought prompts for you to use*.]

* Enabling the safe use of gene technologies and regulated organisms in New Zealand is a great opportunity for our pastoral sector. Access to these technologies could support farmers to make considerable gains in addressing environmental challenges while maintaining production, supporting our industry to remain internationally competitive. Some of the products or technologies could potentially hold value for the pastoral sector, e.g., HME (High Metabolisable Energy) ryegrass which could increase animal productivity whilst reducing environmental impacts.
* There are considerable risks associated with introducing gene technologies and new organisms into New Zealand. Currently New Zealand holds a GM-free status that we use in markets to our advantage. Losing this status could change our marketability and access. There are examples in overseas markets (e.g. Australia) where these risks are managed, however it can be challenging.
* Currently organic farms and farms marketing as GM-free can operate in New Zealand without concern of cross contamination of organisms that have been developed using gene technologies. If this Bill progresses, then a significant burden is likely to be placed on those farmers to ensure their farms and produce are not cross-contaminated and can maintain their GM-free status.
* It is critical that the Bill appropriately considers Māori rights and interests under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and respects cultural values and upholds kaitiaki relationships.
* This Bill is largely focused on the opportunities in the health sector which could provide great benefit to the health outcomes of New Zealanders. However, the risks involved with introducing gene technologies and new organisms are far greater for the agricultural sector. It is critical that care is taken to ensure that risks are managed adequately prior to the introduction on any new products. This could include not applying ‘low risk’ categorisation to agricultural activities or products for the first few years of this Bill being implemented.
* Gene technologies for the agricultural sector will first need to be developed and trialled for a New Zealand-specific context, which may take 5-10 years. Therefore, the benefit of this Bill is to set a clear direction and signal for development of future opportunities whilst taking the time to get risk management systems in place that are adequate to protect our current agricultural sector.

[*Other points you could mention to provide context to your submission*]

* What gene technologies would you be interested in implementing on your farm?
* What system do you run and how could gene technologies benefit (e.g. reducing environmental impact, or increasing production) or disrupt (e.g. cross contamination) your farm?
* How do you see gene technologies and new organisms being managed in New Zealand?

In conclusion, [*Add a concluding statement summarising your support/ opposition/ concerns, with your key points outlined concisely*]

* X
* Y
* Z

I appreciate the opportunity to submit on the Gene Technology Bill 2024. [*Add a sentence to say you wish to be heard in support of my submission, if you would like to make an oral submission to the Select Committee.*]

[*Sign off your submission*] **Do not include contact information**