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If the OGTR deregulates new GM techniques there will be no monitoring or surveillance. Anyone would be free to modify plants, animals and microbes, and entirely new diseases and poisons could be made and enter our food chain and our environment with no safety testing and no labelling. The risks could be catastrophic and irreversible, and it is definitely a risk Australia should not be taking.

Of the four options the OGTR presents in its discussion paper, Option 2 is the only one that will require the labelling and safety testing of ALL products derived from new GM techniques.

Reviews commissioned by the Austrian and Norwegian governments concluded that not enough is known about the risks posed by these new GM techniques. They recommended that products derived from them require comprehensive case-by-case risk assessments.

Australians have a basic right to know what is in the food they are buying. I advocate for OPTION 2.