

Email Submission: Zachary Casper

Dear OGTR

Greetings from the scenic Central Highlands region of Victoria, where I reside.

I am sending this e-mail as a submission regarding proposed changes to the Gene Technology Regulations, changes which in my understanding would deregulate a range of new genetic modification (GM) techniques in animals, plants and microbes. I do not claim to have great scientific or biological knowledge, but I am against those proposed changes as I currently understand them.

In my opinion it would be irresponsible for the Regulator not to monitor the of regulation of GM techniques that could be used by anyone – even potential criminals such as biohackers or terrorist groups – to create new potentially harmful diseases and poisonous substances. Even acceptable and above-board bio industries should be monitored so that they cannot modify plants, animals or microbes beyond what are currently considered accepted safe levels or limits. The risk is unknown, but potentially very great that these techniques/agents could enter our environment and specifically the food chain and environment. If that did occur, then Australians and potentially other nations in the world would be exposed to enormous risks that might prove to be catastrophic.

It is my view that Australians cannot be treated as guinea pigs in regard to for experimental technologies. It is my understand that the governments in Austria and Norway have conducted reviews and concluded such GM modified technologies or products require comprehensive case by case assessments. It is my belief that the OGTR should also decide, on a case by case basis, whether any given GM techniques in animals or plants or microbes should be permitted.

Sincerely yours,

Zachary Casper