

# Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee

Videoconference 24 January 2013

## COMMUNIQUÉ

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The Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC) held a meeting by video conference on 24 January 2013

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GTECCC is a statutory advisory committee established under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (the Act) to provide advice to the Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) and the Legislative and Governance Forum on Gene Technology (LGFGT, formerly the Gene Technology Ministerial Council). The function of GTECCC is to provide advice to the Regulator and the LGFGT on request, on issues of ethical or community concern relating to gene technology. All Committee members and expert advisers hold office on a part-time basis.

The purpose of this Communiqué is to provide a brief overview of the key matters considered by GTECCC at its meeting held by video conference (VC) on 24 January 2013.

### GTECCC WORKPLAN

#### Risk Communication

GTECCC considered a draft revised version of the *Risk Analysis Framework* (RAF). The RAF describes the Regulator's rationale and approach to risk analysis of genetically modified organisms. GTECCC noted that the primary audience of the RAF is OGTR staff, but that it is also intended to provide transparency on the use of risk analysis for decision-making on licence applications.

GTECCC also noted that the risk communication chapter relied on important contributions from the GTECCC Risk Communication Working Group. The revision also took into account comments arising from a discussion at the GTECCC meeting in May 2012, and contributions from the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC).

GTECCC discussed the possibility of having a short, accessible summary of the RAF made publically available. The OGTR is considering a separate process to develop such a summary.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

GTECCC advised the Regulator that:

- The Regulator should consider whether the balance of the document would be improved by moving some detail to an Appendix;
- The Regulator should consider ways to improve the accessibility of the document; and
- The Regulator should consider pre-meeting comments provided by members.