

Reply from Oliver Hendrickson 19 Feb 2016



GE Free New Zealand

In Food And Environment Inc.
PO Box 13402, Wellington, NZ

12/2/2016

Re: NES-PF status.

Kiaora Mr. Miller,

Thank you for talking to me today about the NES-PF. Please can you confirm that I have this correct?

1. Over the next few months, 2016, you will be reporting back to the Minister with a briefing of the issues that arose in the submission process?

Oliver: Yes, this is correct.

In June or July 2016 the Minister will make a decision on the Standards to be adopted and then take them to the full Cabinet.

Oliver: Yes, this is correct.

It will only be put to the cabinet for approval.

Oliver: Yes, this is correct.

It will then pass into law.

Oliver: Following a Cabinet decision to proceed, the Parliamentary Counsel Office will be instructed to draft the NES-PF. A further approval will be required by Cabinet before the NES-PF is notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* and is given legal effect.

Any concerns with the process could be taken to judicial review under the RMA cl: 43 - 45. However I should confirm this with a lawyer.

Oliver: Officials are unable to provide you with legal advice.

I also rang to express concern over the wording in the NES-PF key points of templates submissions saying

"Primarily opposed to a provision permitting afforestation using genetically-modified tree stock where approval had been given by the Environmental

Protection Authority under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act”

We believe that this is not an honest reflection of the submissions and alludes to the fact that opposition is on a “rent a crowd” basis and possibly not fully informed. The 16000+ submitters actually asked that the clause 6.4 be removed; the EPA and HSNO were not even mentioned in any of the template submissions. The submitters were not opposed to the EPA under HSNO making a ruling on GMO’s, as the EPA have the mandate and scientific expertise to decide.

So we believe that the evaluation wording on your website for key points should reflect better the wording of the submitters by saying —

“All wording referring to genetically modified trees and rootstock be removed from the proposed National Environmental Standard on forestry (NES-PF 6.4, p 43, 64 & 82)”

This is a more accurate assessment of the submitters comments and we ask that the MPI website is changed to reflect this wording.

Oliver: As discussed with Stuart, we have noted your concerns. A more comprehensive summary of submissions report will be made publically available following a Cabinet decision.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Bleakley

president@gefree.org.nz

Email received [On 19/02/2016, at 9:03 AM, Oliver Hendrickson wrote:](#)
Hello Claire,

Thank you for your email. My name is Oliver Hendrickson and I'm the manager responsible for the proposed NES-PF.

I appreciate that the GMO provision in the proposed NES-PF is a matter of significant concern for your organisation and that you have several outstanding questions on the process ahead.

I have responded to your questions below. If you have any follow up questions, I'd be happy to discuss these over the phone with you next week (I'm not in the office today).

My direct dial is: 04-819-4685

Oliver.Hendrickson@mpi.govt.nz