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30 May 2025

Jon Muller

Via email: [jonm123@me.com](mailto:jonm123@me.com)

Dear Jon,

### Official Information Act request

Further to your OIA request received by Environmental Protection Authority on Friday, 23 May 2025 and was transferred to Scion on Thursday, 29 May 2025, please find our responses below with your original request in bold and our response in italics.

Your request:

**I note that an experimental trial of gene edited Pinus radiata has been planted in the field trial site at Scion.**

- **question 6: “What are the two traits the trees been gene edited for?”**

Scion response:

*Scion’s field trial approval lists traits we are allowed to test (see below table). Two genes associated with cell wall development were edited, both targeting the biomass utilization trait.*

1.1.2 The approved genetic modifications (GM) and traits for the host organism are:

| Genetic Modification   | Trait   |
|--|---|
| <b>Vectors:</b><br>Using standard plasmid vectors used in plant transformation.<br><br><b>Donor Genetic Material:</b><br>Genomic or complementary DNA derived from plants, bacteria, fungi, animals and viruses including standard promoters and other gene regulatory elements, reporter and selectable marker genes, protein purification tags and origins of replication.<br><br><b>Exclusions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modifications that use genetic material from humans or from native flora and fauna.</li><li>• Genetic material that increases the pathogenicity, virulence, or infectivity of the host organism.</li><li>• Modifications that result in the intentional production of known<sup>1</sup> vertebrate toxins (LD<sub>50</sub> &lt; 100 µg/kg).</li></ul><br>GM trees will be generated using standard tissue culture and molecular biology techniques. | Trees that have modifications of genes involved in the following traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reproduction</li><li>• herbicide tolerance</li><li>• wood density</li><li>• plant growth</li><li>• biomass acquisition</li><li>• biomass utilization</li><li>• wood dimensional stability</li><li>• identification (eg. selection marker and reporter genes).</li></ul><br>Multiples traits may be stacked as long as the combination of traits does not fall under the exclusions listed in this table. |

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Tania Stanley, ([tania.stanley@scionresearch.com](mailto:tania.stanley@scionresearch.com)).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Florian Graichen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Florian Graichen  
Acting CEO