



GE Free New Zealand

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15 October 2025

Official Information Act Request: Regarding ending of ERMA200223

Atamarie Ms Kento,

Regarding the activities under HSNO Act approval ERMA200223 at the AgResearch Ruakura GM animal facility were destroyed in July 2025.

This site is now going to be used for industrial or residential development by Tainui.

At the end of a Field Trial as defined in HSNO, Schedule, 45A (2) and specified by Control 15 of the ERMA200223 approval, concerning completion of the field trial, requires that:

AgResearch as the approval holder must have completed destruction (i.e. killing and disposal) of all heritable material and organisms held under this approval by

the date of expiry of this approval; or

12 months from the date which work under this approval ceases (whichever is the earliest). (ERMA 200223, condition 15, p44)

As the dead genetically modified animals and surrogate animals (a mixture of sheep, goats and cows) that carried transgenic foetuses, have been disposed of on site in 58 pits. These animals were engineered with many different traits some with communicable diseases that were heritable. We understand that transgenes are also heritable and have the ability to transfer their genetic material to the microorganisms in the soil therefore potentially becoming vectors for disease.

Questions:

1. How does the transfer of viable material to Australia fit into condition 15 of the ERMA200223 control condition?
2. How long has the EPA put on the site for the transgenic and engineered material to break down?
3. Do the controls ERMA200223 have in relation to the clean-up of the site on the ending of a field trial operation require the heritable material contained in the 58 animal disposal pits and the soil where the milk, effluent and birthing and dead animal material be tested for Horizontal Gene Transfer of the transgenic and gene edited material?
4. What testing will be required to show that the genetically modified elements have broken down.
5. If not we demand that HGT testing is a required condition for cleaning up the site before any residential or industrial development is consented.
6. Please may we have a comprehensive range of photographs relating to each of the trait trials years of cows, goats and sheep both deformed and healthy?

If you require any further clarification to process this request, please let me know as soon as possible.

I am requesting this information under the Official Information Act 1982.

Ngā mihi ,

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