

# Official Information Act Request

## Requester's details

**Date:** 18 November 2025

**Name:** Claire Bleakley

**Organisation:** GE Free New Zealand

**Email:** [p.bleakley@orcon.net.nz](mailto:p.bleakley@orcon.net.nz)

**Reference number:** ENQ-49954-J2Y4T2

Tēnā koe Claire

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received on 15 October 2025 regarding the end of development activities requiring outdoor containment of large animals in application ERMA200223.

On 6 November 2025, we advised you that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) does not hold part of the information you have requested. Questions 1, 4, and 6 of your request were transferred to the Bioeconomy Science Institute (previously AgResearch) under section 14(b)(i) of the OIA.

On 12 November 2025, we advised you that we were extending the time to respond to your request to 3 December 2025.

I address your remaining questions below.

**2. How long has the EPA put on the site for the transgenic and engineered material to break down?**

The EPA did not impose a control on the time required for the degradation of any genetically modified material.

**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?**

**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.**

There is no control in ERMA200223 requiring horizontal gene transfer testing.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [ministerials@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@epa.govt.nz)

We may publish your request and our response on our website, [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz). We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Fleury'.

Dr Lauren Fleury

**General Manager (Acting), Hazardous Substances and New Organisms**