



appendix 2

Outcomes of Consultation: Submissions
from Interested Persons

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3.1 Strategy: an introduction

The following three sections discuss three Warrant items concerning strategy. The Warrant items are:

- (1) the strategic options available to enable New Zealand to address, now and in the future, genetic modification, genetically modified organisms and products
- (k) the key strategic issues drawing on ethical, cultural, environmental, social, and economic risks and benefits arising from the use of genetic modification, genetically modified organisms, and products

(m) the range of strategic outcomes for the future application or avoidance of genetic modification, genetically modified organisms, and products in New Zealand

Strategic matters received considerable comment from submitters. Seventy-eight submitters commented on Warrant item (l) strategic ‘options’, 39 on Warrant item (k) strategic ‘issues’, and 37 on Warrant item (m) strategic ‘outcomes’.

Strategic ‘options’, ‘issues’ and ‘outcomes’ have been addressed simultaneously to ensure the scope of submitters’ comment is fully captured in relevant discussion. Where appropriate, comments across the three Warrant items have been grouped together. Submitters’ comments suggest that there was no uniform and consistent understanding of the terms strategic ‘options’, strategic ‘issues’ and strategic ‘outcomes’. Hence submitters have interpreted, defined and delineated these terms in different ways. For the purposes of this report, submitters’ comments have been drawn together in the following manner.

Strategic options includes the broad-based, overall philosophy that might guide the direction of New Zealand policy for genetic modification. Strategic options include the various pathways, or courses of action, available to New Zealand. Strategic options available include, for example, an option for a totally ‘genetic modification free’ New Zealand, the option of a system which encompasses use of genetic modification technology in some areas but not in others, or the option of a widespread use of genetic modification in New Zealand.

Strategic issues discusses the general questions that arise when a particular course of action is followed. They can be seen as the linkage between the strategic options being pursued, and the resultant outcomes. The Warrant item mentions strategic issues that involve ethical, social, cultural, environmental, social and economic risks and benefits. In this report, submitter views on what are strategic issues includes discussion of these points with respect to considerations of ‘acceptability’, ‘choice’, ‘risk management’ and ‘opportunities’ to be gained or lost.

Strategic outcomes comprises the range of end results that might be specifically sought, or might result from, the application or avoidance of genetic modification, genetically modified organisms and products in New Zealand. Outcomes include, for example, the results from the use or the avoidance of genetic modification in the areas of health, environment, production, research, culture and ethics.

In brief, in selecting a particular course of action, or pathway (strategic option), certain questions and considerations are considered (strategic issues) in order to achieve the final goal or end result (strategic outcome).