

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 January 2016 11:13 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Campaign response [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I've also checked with [REDACTED] about being able to see the response before it's uploaded to the Health website and she is going to ask for the opportunity to see the response if any changes are made by the MO.

[REDACTED]

Issue:

Claims that FSANZ and the OGTR are planning to deregulate certain new breeding techniques.

Response:

In Australia, dealings with genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are regulated under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (GT Act), which is administered by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, (OGTR). Australian food laws also regulate the sale of genetically modified foods.

The law relating to the sale of genetically modified food has not changed and FSANZ is not considering any reduction in the scope of food standards for foods produced using gene technology.

Australian and New Zealand food laws continue to prohibit the sale of food that is unsafe. Anyone who is concerned that unsafe food is being sold in Australia or New Zealand can report their concerns to the regulatory authorities responsible for enforcing those laws.

Australian state and territory government agencies are responsible for administering and enforcing Australian food laws, including determining what food is a 'food produced using gene technology' for the purposes of those laws. The Australian Government Department of Agriculture has this responsibility for imported food.

Anyone can apply at any time to amend the Food Standards Code, including to change how it applies to genetically modified foods. All applications or FSANZ-initiated proposals to amend the Code are considered through a public process, and include public consultation.

The OGTR is currently conducting a technical review of regulations made under the GT Act to ensure the level of regulation of activities with GMOs remains commensurate with risk according to current science. The review aims to improve clarity regarding regulatory capture of new technologies. Broad consultation with the public, states and territories, regulated stakeholders, industry and scientific experts will be undertaken before any amendment proposals are finalised. No decision has been made on whether or not dealings with organisms developed using particular new techniques will be excluded from regulation as GMOs.