

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 January 2016 4:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: New GM techniques [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed below is an example of the email the office have seen relating to the GM issue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Stephen.Jones.MP@aph.gov.au
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: New GM techniques
Date: Fri, 8 Jan 2016 01:54:37 +0000

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email related to gene technology and food.

Please be assured that Labor policy in this area will continue to be guided by science.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand operates as the food regulator, setting the standards for food safety in across Australia and New Zealand. It operates through an inter-governmental agreement and the Australian Parliament has no unilateral authority to direct FSANZ to establish or amend a food standard. The responsibility for directing the organisation originates from the Forum on Food Regulation (or Ministerial Council) informed by the FSANZ Board, which is made up of scientists, public health experts, and representatives of consumers and industry.

In legislation before the Senate known as the [Food Standards Australia New Zealand Amendment \(Forum on Food Regulation and Other Measures\) Bill 2015](#), the government is attempting to change the composition of the board to remove representation of the National Health and Medical Research Council, and to reduce the minimum number of science based experts. The government are simultaneously attempting to increase the maximum number of industry representatives on the board.

Labor has strongly opposed these changes to the board, as we did in when the Howard Government attempted to make similar changes. I believe the best way to guarantee a safe food supply is to ensure an independent FSANZ board informed by the scientists and public health experts that compose it now.

I urge you to make your views known to the Minister for Rural Health that has portfolio responsibility for food standards at:

Senator The Hon Fiona Nash
Minister for Rural Health
Australian Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Or

Senator The Hon Fiona Nash
Minister for Rural Health
senator.nash@aph.gov.au

Sincerely,

Stephen Jones



STEPHEN JONES MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR THROSBY
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HEALTH
ELECTORATE 02 4262 6122 | PARLIAMENT 02 6277 4661

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 21 December 2015 10:46 AM
To: Minister.Nash@health.gov.au
Cc: Jones, Stephen (MP)
Subject: New GM techniques

Dear Minister,

I'm deeply concerned at revelations that our regulators - Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) – are planning to deregulate a range of new genetic engineering techniques such as oligo-directed mutagenesis, zinc finger nucleases and CRISPR.

These techniques pose the same risks as older GM techniques and need to be assessed for safety before they are allowed in our food. They should also be labelled to protect choice for farmers, food producers and consumers.

I urge you to ensure that:

- These new GM techniques and the products derived from them are subject to a comprehensive case-by-case risk assessment, including full molecular characterisation and independent safety testing to minimise any potential risks to human health and the environment;
- All products derived from new GM techniques are labelled to protect choice for farmers, food producers and consumers;
- A moratorium on the commercialisation of these new GM techniques is introduced until our regulatory system for GMOs is adapted to deal with the potential risks posed by them.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

This email was sent via do^gooder, a campaign platform that enables people to contact you regarding issues they care about. The FROM field of this email is campaigns@good.do however the email was sent by [Redacted] who provided this email address: [Redacted]

In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 (<http://www.rfc-base.org/rfc-3834.html>) we have included this address in the REPLY-TO field and you should respond to pauline mcminn at that email address.

To learn more about do^gooder visit www.good.do

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