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To whom it concerns,

All GM foods should be independently assessed for their health and environmental hazards and risks, be labelled as GM, and be traceable. This will allow farmers, food producers, retailers, and shoppers to avoid them, for many important reasons.

I therefore strongly oppose changes to the Food Code that would allow a wide range of GM foods, made using novel methods that have scant history of safe use, to be sold without safety assessment or labelling. These changes would undermine FSANZ's key responsibilities to ensure food safety and our right to know what is in our food.

Agrochemical companies cannot be trusted to self-assess the safety of GM foods as they have an appalling record of manipulating data to promote dangerous products.

Gene editing techniques have been found to make genetic changes that could never occur in nature and to result in serious genetic damage that often goes undetected by GM developers.

The proposed changes would make Australia one of very few countries in the world to allow genetically modified animal products into our food chain with no regulation or labelling. This would put us at odds with our international trading partners, which FSANZ admits "may have a significant impact on trade". The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, an international agreement signed by 166 governments worldwide, and the UN's food standards body Codex Alimentarius agree that all GM techniques differ from conventional breeding and that pre-market safety assessments are essential before GM organisms are used in food.

I support expanding the definition for 'gene technology' so FSANZ continues to assess and regulate all techniques and methods of genetic modification, other than conventional breeding. The proposal to deregulate new and emerging GM techniques and their food products, which pose new and unassessed risks, is completely unacceptable.

I am concerned about the implications of these proposed changes for new GM foods exported from those countries, as the integrity of the food supply would be threatened globally and trade disruptions and loss of consumer trust could result.

I strongly support the stand of Environmental Agency of Germany to regulate the the GM-products.  
[https://www.bfn.de/sites/default/files/2021-10/Viewpoint-plant-genetic-engineering\\_1.pdf](https://www.bfn.de/sites/default/files/2021-10/Viewpoint-plant-genetic-engineering_1.pdf)

Thank you for taking my well-founded and informed concerns into consideration.

Yours sincerely,  
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