

Response to Minute 11 – Council costs for GMO compliance and clean-up

3 May 2019

Updated 8 May 2019 with response from Auckland Council

In Minute 11 Council requested an answer to the question:

What have other councils (that have GMO provisions in their respective plans) budgeted for the potential clean-up of the accidental or illegal release of GMOs and the costs (including staff time) of monitoring and enforcement of GMO use?

An email was sent (11 April 2019) to the four councils with GMO provisions in their respective district or unitary plan (no regional plans include GMO provisions):

- Hastings District Council,
- Whangarei District Council,
- Far North District Council and
- Auckland Council.

Responses were received from Hastings and Whangarei district councils and Auckland Council (no response to date from Far North District Council):



Thu 11/04/2019 3:25 PM

Rowan Wallis <rowanw@hdc.govt.nz>

GMO Funding

To Ben Lee

You replied to this message on 23/04/2019 9:19 AM.

Hi Ben

You have asked the following questions in relation to the budgeting around GMOs in our district.

What have councils, with genetically modified organisms (GMO) provisions in their respective district or unitary plans, budgeted for:

- the potential clean-up of the accidental or illegal release of GMOs, and
- the costs (including staff time) of monitoring and enforcement of GMO use?

It is a relatively straightforward answer as the Hastings District Council has prohibited the use of GMO's in terms of outdoor release and field trials. We do however, provide for laboratory research and medical or veterinary applications in our Plan. Due to the prohibited status we do not make any budgeting provision for the potential or accidental release of GMO's. Neither do we make specific budget for our compliance team to monitor and enforce, as the uses are very clear.

I am happy to answer any other queries that you may have.

Kind regards

Rowan

ROWAN WALLIS
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MANAGER



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Hastings District Council, Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4156, New Zealand





Wed 24/04/2019 10:47 AM

Murray McDonald <murray.mcdonald@wdc.govt.nz>

Request for Information re GMOs

To: Ben Lee

Cc: Alison Geddes; Kathryn Candy

You replied to this message on 30/04/2019 1:46 PM.

Hi Ben,

Please find below our response to your request:

Council has not budgeted any funds for clean-up of accidental or illegal release of GMOs. There is no legislative requirement making consent authorities responsible for funding of such an event.
No additional funds have been budgeted for the specific monitoring and enforcement of GMO use. Council has increased its resources in the RMA Compliance team for monitoring resource consents generally, but not specifically for GMO. It is noted that the rules relating to such uses make it clear that the cost of monitoring such consents will be charged to the consent holder.

Regards

Murray McDonald

Manager | RMA Consents Department

Whangarei District Council | Private Bag 9023, Whangarei 0148 | www.wdc.govt.nz

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Tue 7/05/2019 12:17 PM

Megan Carbines <megan.carbines@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

Question - council funding for GMO activities

To: Ben Lee

Cc: Jenny Fuller

You replied to this message on 7/05/2019 2:28 PM.

[Click here to download pictures.](#) To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Hi Ben

Apologies for the slow response on this, it bounced around council a bit. This isn't really my area but I can confirm that our operations team have no budgetary provisions for dealing with GMO. Jenny Fuller from our Plans and Places team will confirm where our provisions are currently if you require that information also.

Kind regards

Megan

Dr Megan Carbines | Principal Scientist | Kaipūtaiao ki tī
Environmental Research and Evaluation | Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU)
Auckland Plan, Strategy and Research (APSR)

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Ben Lee

From: Tammy Wooster <Tammy.Wooster@fndc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 May 2019 5:29 PM
To: Ben Lee
Cc: Greg Wilson
Subject: GMO activites

Hi Ben

I had been advised that you were still awaiting a response from FNDC regarding a question you sent some time ago. I see that you needed this information by the 7 of May 2019, but have decided to still respond as you may still find this information useful.

I can advise that:

The FNDC has not budgeted any funds for the clean up of accidental or illegal release of GMOs. There is no legislative requirement making consent authorities responsible for the funding of such an event. No additional funds have been budgeted for the specific monitoring and enforcement of GMO use. Council has increased its resource in the RMA Compliance team for the monitoring of resource consents generally, but not specifically for GMOs. It is noted that the rules relating to such uses make it clear that the cost of monitoring of any issued consent will be charged to the consent holder (e.g. bonding requirements).

Kind Regards



Tammy Wooster
Senior Policy Planner

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