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Improving GMO regulations for laboratory and biomedical research  
Ministry for the Environment  
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## **RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND (INC) SUBMISSION**

### **Improving GMO regulations for laboratory and biomedical research**

#### **Introduction**

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Ministry for the Environment on proposed changes to Aotearoa New Zealand's legislation and regulations for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) used in laboratory settings and for biomedical therapies.

#### **Comments**

1. RWNZ is open to the proposed response to concerns from the research community that current GMO regulations are hindering research and innovation, with the aim of this consultation to remove barriers to foster research and improve health outcomes.
2. Our view is based on the anticipated benefits to rural communities and the potential for increased involvement of women in science and agriculture within the research.
3. We note the proposals apply only to laboratory settings, however there is no definition provided as to what a laboratory setting is and/or where these might be created and located. We ask that a description or further detail be provided to clarify what a laboratory would entail and the parameters of how and where such facilities might be situated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

### **About Rural Women New Zealand**

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation that reaches into all rural communities to provide a credible and respected voice on rural environment, health, education, technology, business and social issues.

RWNZ strives to ensure that all rural residents, workers and families have equitable access to services, inequalities are addressed by Government, and the wellbeing of rural communities is considered from the beginning of all policy and legislative development.

RWNZ is affiliated to the Associated Country Women of the World and as such upholds all United Nations, International Labor Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) conventions and outcome statements as they relate to women and rural women in particular.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gabrielle O'Brien', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Gabrielle O'Brien**  
**Chief Executive**