



Whangarei District Council gives notice that it has prepared the following proposed plan change to the Whangarei District Plan:

Plan Change 131 – Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO): The Plan Change has been developed collaboratively over the past 10 years. During this time the community has voiced concerns to the Council on the risks of the outdoor use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in a number of different forums. In response to these concerns an Inter-Council Working Party ('the Working Party') on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options was formed in 2003. The Working Party is made up of the councils in Northland and Auckland. The Working Party determined that GMOs are a significant resource management issue in the northern region and that a precautionary approach to the outdoor use of GMOs is desired by the community.

Plan change 131 proposes to insert a new chapter and new definitions into the Whangarei District Council Operative District Plan. The following summarises the proposed provisions:

- The creation of a district wide GMOs chapter to be inserted into the District Plan that includes:
 - A description of the purpose and expectations of the new GMO chapter, which is to manage the outdoor use of GMOs.
 - Eligibility rules that outline what GMO activities are covered and what GMO activities are not covered by the new provisions.
 - Notification criteria, which states that all applications for resource consent under the proposed GMO provisions must be publicly notified.
 - Objectives specifying outcomes sought for the outdoor use of GMOs.
 - Policies specifying courses of action to achieve outcomes sought for the outdoor use of GMOs.
 - Information requirements for applications for GMO field trials.
 - General development and performance standards outlining minimum controls without limiting the discretion reserved to Council.
 - Particular matters to be considered when determining the amount of bond required and a monitoring strategy for a GMO discretionary activity.
- New definitions to be inserted into chapter 4, meaning of words in the District Plan for the following terms:
 - Field Trials (tests)
 - Genetically Modified Organism and GMO
 - Release
 - Environmental Protection Authority and EPA
 - Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act and HSNO

The Council has resolved to double the submission period for Plan Change 131 in accordance with section 37 of the Resource Management Act 1991 from 20 working days to 40 working days.

Public Inspection

The Plan Change may be inspected at: Whangarei District Council Service Centres at Forum North, Rust Avenue, Whangarei; Ruakaka Service Centre, Takutai Place, Ruakaka; Whangarei Central Library, Rust Avenue, Whangarei; Kamo Library, Kamo Road, Kamo; Onerahi Library, Commins Road, Onerahi; Tikipunga Library, Paramount Parade, Tikipunga; and on Council's website at

www.wdc.govt.nz/PlansPoliciesandBylaws/Plans/DistrictPlan/DistrictPlanChanges

Please contact Council's Policy and Monitoring Department if you have any questions about the proposal.

Submissions

Any person may make a submission on the proposal. The submission must be in Form 5 and must state whether or not you wish to be heard on your submission. Copies of this form are available from Whangarei District Council. Your written submission must be sent to:

Whangarei District Council
Private Bag 9023
WHANGAREI 0148
Attention: Policy and Monitoring Department
Fax: (09) 438 7632

or delivered to Whangarei District Council Offices, Forum North, Rust Avenue, Whangarei or emailed to mailroom@wdc.govt.nz.

Submissions close at 4pm on Tuesday 9 September 2014

Public Participation Process

The process for public participation in the consideration of the proposal under the Act is as follows:

- after the closing date for submissions, Whangarei District Council must prepare a summary of the submissions and this summary must be publicly notified
- there must be an opportunity to make a further submission in support of, or in opposition to, the submissions already made
- if a person making a submission asks to be heard in support of his or her submission, a hearing must be held
- Whangarei District Council must give its decision on the proposal (including its reasons for accepting or rejecting submissions)
- any person who has made a submission has the right to appeal the decision on the proposal to the Environment Court.

This notice is given pursuant to Clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.