

ANALYSIS OF GM POLL RESULTS

1. Want Councils to Have a Role in Regulating Use of GM Plants and Animals, Either Directly or Through ERMA Process:

Council	Percentage (%)
FNDC	71
WDC	76
KDC	74
RDC	66
WCC	75
AR	68
NR	74

- Strong support for local government to have a role in regulating use of GM plants and animals.

2. Want Regulation to Make GM Plants and Animal Users Legally Responsible for Environmental/Economic Harm:

Council	Percentage (%)
FNDC	63
WDC	72
KDC	68
RDC	63
WCC	69
AR	64
NR	67

- Strong support for making users of GM plants and animals responsible for environmental/economic harm (strict liability).

3. Want Councils to Have Right to Prohibit GM Plants and Animals by Setting Rules or Through ERMA Process:

Council	Percentage (%)
FNDC	50
WDC	55
KDC	52
RDC	46
WCC	51
AR	44
NR	53

- Moderate support for councils to have right to prohibit GM plants and animals either directly or through ERMA process. RDC and AR less than 50%; others above 50% support.

4. Want Councils to Set Rules for Use of GM Plants and Animals:

Council	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Preference (%)
FNDC	42	39	16
WDC	49	37	13
KDC	49	34	16
RDC	40	44	13
WCC	47	36	16
AR	40	40	18
NR	46	37	14

- Levels of support for councils setting rules for use of GM plants and animals vary. Support significant in WDC, KDC, WCC, and NR. FNDC, RDC and AR results not significantly different.

5. Of Those Who Supported Council Setting Rules, What Level of Regulation Favoured:

Council	Total Prohibition (%)	Food Production Prohibited/Other Uses Allowed (%)	Users Liable for Environmental/Economic Harm (%)
FNDC	51	19	29
WDC	57	18	25
KDC	56	21	20
RDC	50	25	22
WCC	46	19	34
AR	39	27	32
NR	55	18	26

- Total prohibition the most favoured level of regulation, followed by strict liability, and then food production prohibited/other uses allowed. Support for total prohibition significantly higher than other options.

6. Of Those Who Did Not Support Council Setting Rules, Want Councils to Lobby Central Government to:

Council	Give councils ability to reject use of GM plants and animals when ERMA processing application (%)		Make users of GM plants and animals liable for environmental/economic harm (%)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
FNDC	52	38	53	32
WDC	55	34	63	28
KDC	50	35	62	24
RDC	46	45	59	30
WCC	54	29	60	23
AR	49	40	62	24
NR	54	36	59	29

- Clear support for councils to lobby central government to give councils ability to reject use of GM plants and animals during ERMA process. Result not significant at RDC.
- Strong support to lobby central government to make users of GM plants and animals liable for environmental/economic harm. Results significant for all councils.

7. People Should Be Able to Produce GM Plants and Animals if They Choose to:

Council	Yes (%)	No (%)
FNDC	23	67
WDC	19	72
KDC	23	67
RDC	25	65
WCC	30	60
AR	22	61
NR	21	70

- Little support for allowing land owners to produce GM plants and animals without regulation, i.e. strong support for some form of regulation. All results statistically significant.

8. NZ Should Only Produce Food that is GM Free:

Council	Yes (%)	No (%)
FNDC	58	29
WDC	54	32
KDC	57	30
RDC	52	36
WCC	53	28
AR	50	38
NR	56	31

- Clear support for NZ producing only GM free food. All results statistically significant.

9. GM Plants and Animals Will Provide Economic Benefits:

Council	Yes (%)	No (%)
FNDC	24	49
WDC	26	45
KDC	25	52
RDC	28	47
WCC	30	40
AR	41	37
NR	25	47

- Clear rejection that GM plants and animals will provide economic benefits, except in AR.

10. GM Will Harm the Local Tourism Industry:

Council	Yes (%)	No (%)
FNDC	41	35
WDC	41	35
KDC	41	33
RDC	38	42
WCC	37	41
AR	34	42
NR	41	35

- Split over whether GM will harm the local tourism industry. NR indicates yes; AR indicates no.

11. GM Will Harm the Local Food Industry:

Council	Yes (%)	No (%)
FNDC	41	35
WDC	41	35
KDC	41	33
RDC	38	42
WCC	37	41
AR	34	42
NR	41	35

- Split over whether GM will harm the local food industry. NR indicates yes; AR indicates no.

12. Leave Open Option for GM Plants and Animals in Future:

Council	Yes (%)	No (%)
FNDC	58	31
WDC	65	28
KDC	57	32
RDC	63	28
WCC	66	22
AR	66	26
NR	62	30

- Strong support to leave open the option for GM plants and animals in the future.

13. Want Councils to Set Rules for Use of GM Plants and Animals (Ethnicity):

	Ethnicity	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Preference (%)
Auckland Region	NZ European	42	46	11
	Maori	45	39	16
	Other Ethnicity	37	34	16
Northland Region	NZ European	44	44	11
	Maori	54	22	19
	Other Ethnicity	42	35	20

- Support for councils to set rules for use of GM plants and animals strongest amongst Maori, particularly in Northland Region.

14. Want Councils to Set Rules for Use of GM Plants and Animals (Urban/Rural):

		Yes (%)	No (%)	No Preference (%)
Auckland Region	Urban	39	42	18
	Semi Rural	49	35	15
	Rural	34	29	29
Northland Region	Urban	48	35	15
	Semi Rural	48	36	13
	Rural	42	41	14

- Support for councils to set rules for use of GM plants and animals strongest amongst semi-rural residents. Rural residents more evenly divided. Urban view varies by region. NR indicates yes; AR indicates no.

CONCLUSIONS

- Dissatisfaction with existing regulatory regime for GM plants and animals.
- Dissatisfaction with existing liability provisions for GM plants and animals.
- Strong support for councils to have a role in regulating use of GM plants and animals, either by setting rules directly or through ERMA process.
- Strong support for introducing a strict liability regime for users of GM plants and animals.