



Policy principles

5 September 2003

A key part of the scheme is the provision for policy principles that may be issued by the Gene Technology Ministers' Meeting to guide the operation of the national regulatory system. They also govern the work of the Gene Technology Regulator.

Gene Technology (Recognition of Designated Areas) Principle 2003

Under the [Gene Technology Act 2000](#), the Gene Technology Ministers' Meeting (GTMM) has the power to issue a policy principle which would recognise states' and territories rights to designate under state and territory law special areas that are either for genetically modified (GM) or non-GM crops for market purposes. The Regulator must then act consistently with the policy principle.

At its 24 May 2002 meeting, the GTMM (then known as the Ministerial Council) agreed to start work on this policy principle. The Gene Technology Standing Committee, consisting of senior Commonwealth, state and territory government officials, developed a draft policy principle and related documents. These documents were released for public comment in May 2003.

Once the consultation process was completed, a report of the outcome of the consultation was prepared and used to inform consideration of the final policy principle by the then Ministerial Council. On 31 July 2003, the then Ministerial Council agreed to the issuing of the Gene Technology (Recognition of Designated Areas) Principle 2003. The policy principle was published in the Commonwealth Government Special Gazette No. S340 on Friday 5 September 2003 and was tabled in each House of the Australian Parliament on 9 September 2003.

A copy of the final policy principle, explanatory statement, and final regulatory impact statement can be obtained by emailing GeneTechPolicy&Governance@health.gov.au.