

# Gene Technology Ministers' Meeting

## PRIORITIES UNTIL 2025

The following priorities were agreed by all Australian Governments through the Gene Technology Ministers' Meeting (GTMM) held on 13 April 2023. The priorities progress the recommendations made by the Third review of the National Gene Technology Scheme (the Scheme) and the preferred regulatory model of risk-tiering in the Decision Regulatory Impact Statement endorsed by the (GTMM) in July 2021.

### 1. Legislative amendments to modernise and improve the Scheme

Legislative reforms are required to update, future proof and modernise the Scheme. The changes will ensure the Scheme reflects current best practice, is appropriately flexible and risk based in an environment where the science and inherent risks of gene technology is evolving.

### 2. Prepare for the next Review of the Scheme

The Third review of the Scheme will be completed in 2025. Planning for the Fourth review will be undertaken to complement the extensive legislative reforms of the current Review and aim to identify areas which require further consideration. A review of the intergovernmental agreement will also be undertaken prior to the commencement of the next review.

### 3. Guidance for Genetically Modified (GM) gene drive organisms

To facilitate innovation, while supporting all Australian Governments to ensure continued management of risks, guidance material will be developed to increase clarity and understanding of proponents' regulatory obligations and strengthen compliance for the possible broader environmental release of genetically modified organisms, and potential future environmental release of GM gene drive organisms.

### 4. Sustainable funding for the Scheme

Sustainability of the Scheme is paramount. Funding mechanisms need to achieve appropriate funding levels for Gene Technology Regulator activities and to ensure future changes can be made to keep the Scheme contemporary. Funding mechanisms will be investigated to inform options to enable sustainability of the Scheme.

### 5. Increase stakeholder and public understanding of gene technology and its regulation under the Scheme

Educational materials will be developed, and existing resources will be updated to ensure stakeholders have access to current gene technology information and developments. These materials will also support increased public understanding and confidence in the Scheme.