



20 December 2024

Sam Uffindell MP, Chairperson, Health Select Committee

Cc:

Hon Judith Collins KC, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology  
Hon Todd McClay, Minister of Agriculture  
Hon Mark Patterson, Associate Minister of Agriculture  
Hon Andrew Hoggard, Associate Minister of Agriculture  
Hon Nicola Grigg, Associate Minister of Agriculture

**BY E-MAIL:** [sam.uffindell@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:sam.uffindell@parliament.govt.nz)  
[judith.collins@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:judith.collins@parliament.govt.nz)  
[todd.mcclay@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:todd.mcclay@parliament.govt.nz)  
[andrew.hoggard@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.hoggard@parliament.govt.nz)  
[mark.patterson@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:mark.patterson@parliament.govt.nz)  
[nicola.griggs@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.griggs@parliament.govt.nz)

Dear Chair

## **GENE TECHNOLOGY BILL SELECT COMMITTEE PROCESS**

Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ), the Meat Industry Association of New Zealand (MIA), DairyNZ and Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) are concerned about the Select Committee process for the Gene Technology Bill (the Bill), announced on 18 December.

While we welcome the opportunity to engage with this critical legislative review, we consider the current deadline for submissions (17 February) is insufficient to enable robust analysis and comprehensive feedback, particularly given the holiday period.

As the representative bodies for the red meat and dairy sectors (representing farmers, processors, and exporters), **we request an extension of the public consultation period by 6 weeks, to 31 March 2025.** Extending the timeframe would enable thorough canvassing of our respective constituents and enhance the quality and inclusiveness of this process.

In the two decades since the current regulatory regime was established, gene technology has advanced significantly, and we agree that a review is well overdue. However, we recognise that this is a polarising issue for many New Zealanders. Within our farming and rural communities, among companies that we represent, through our surveys and public meetings, it is clear that perspectives on gene technology vary widely.

The primary sector relies on sound, evidence-based policy frameworks that balance innovation with environmental ethical and market considerations. The outcomes of this legislative reform will have a direct impact on farmers, processors and exporters. We believe that a longer consultation period is essential to allow for a detailed review of the proposed legislation and to facilitate meaningful engagement with all stakeholders.

We would also welcome the opportunity to share the sector's views with you directly. To this end, we would like to offer a coordinated meeting of senior agricultural representatives to discuss positions across the sector and provide constructive input.

In summary, while we are supportive the discussion on this Bill and agree that a review of the regulatory framework is overdue, we have significant concerns about the limited timeframe for submissions. B+LNZ, MIA, DairyNZ and DCANZ are committed to achieving enduring, well-considered solutions to the complex policy questions facing New Zealand. A rushed process risks compromising the quality of these outcomes.

We urge you to consider this request for an extension to ensure that all voices are heard, and that sound, durable regulatory settings for gene technologies can be achieved.

Yours sincerely



Alan Thomson  
Chief Executive  
Beef + Lamb New Zealand Ltd



Sirma Karapeeva  
Chief Executive  
Meat Industry Association of New Zealand



Kimberly Crewther  
Executive Director  
Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand



Campbell Parker  
Chief Executive  
DairyNZ