



# OGTR Stakeholder Engagement Framework



Openness and transparency have been cornerstones of Australia's gene technology regulatory scheme since it began in 2001



## Framework foundations

People and organisations wishing to work with GMOs<sup>1</sup> have been able to do so provided they follow laws designed to protect people and the environment.

To date, there is no evidence of any adverse effect on human health or environment from authorised GMOs, and the laws have been enforced without the need to utilise the legal sanctions available to the Gene Technology Regulator.

Today there are new opportunities and challenges in communication and engagement on gene technology including:

- new gene technology techniques
- social media and other communication platforms
- biohacking and community science
- stakeholder expectations

We focus on communication and stakeholder engagement activities that enable informed decision making, encourage compliance and maintain community trust in the Gene Technology Regulator.

## Our stakeholders

The OGTR<sup>2</sup> communicates and engages widely with people including:

- People working with or wishing to work with GMOs including researchers, farmers and industry
- People and organisations with concerns about the safety of gene technology
- The wider community, including members of the public and students with questions about or an interest in gene technology
- Government (Commonwealth, States and Territories, and local councils)
- The media
- International agencies with an interest in gene technology regulation in Australia.

<sup>1</sup> Genetically modified organisms

<sup>2</sup> Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

## Engagement principles

### Purposeful

The OGTR begins every engagement with our stakeholders with a clear understanding of what we want to achieve and what we need to do to comply with the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.

### Inclusive

The OGTR provides different ways for interested stakeholders to engage.

### Timely

The OGTR consults our stakeholders in our decision-making processes and provides timely opportunities for stakeholder input.

### Transparent

The OGTR is open and honest in our engagement and sets clear expectations regarding the scope of the consultation, while also protecting privacy and other information required to be kept confidential.

### Respectful

The OGTR acknowledges and respects the expertise, perspective, and needs of our stakeholders.

## Communication tools

The OGTR uses a range of tools to engage with people in order to encourage compliance, demonstrate transparency, and maintain trust.



### Online publications

- The GMO Record, a comprehensive open online record of all dealings in Australia that involve GMOs
- GMO risk assessment documents including application-related documents
- OGTR News, which publishes notifications of significant events such as new applications, invitations for comment, legislation changes etc. It is available via email and post
- Fact sheets, newsletters, quarterly compliance reports and annual reports
- Detailed advice for people working with GMOs on the regulatory requirements and guidelines for the safe conduct of work with GMOs



### Engagement

- Inviting comment on the Regulator's risk assessment and risk management plans for each GMO release application
- Publishing notices of significant consultation processes nationally, e.g. in newspapers, the Australian Government Gazette, on the OGTR website and via Twitter
- Being accountable to Parliament via the Annual Report, Senate Estimates and other parliamentary processes
- Responding to public and media enquiries
- Meetings, forums and working groups inc. Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee, Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee, Institutional Biosafety Committee Forums



### New communication tools

- Exploring the use of online multimedia tools to communicate with our stakeholders
- Exploring opportunities to better engage with educators and students
- Exploring opportunities to better engage with community scientists
- Seeking additional feedback from our stakeholders through stakeholder surveys



## Contact points

Online [www.ogtr.gov.au](http://www.ogtr.gov.au)

Email [ogtr@health.gov.au](mailto:ogtr@health.gov.au)

Mail Office of the Gene Technology Regulator MDP 54, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

Free call 1800 181 030

## Supporting documents

OGTR Strategic Plan

Risk Analysis Framework

OGTR Science Strategy

National Framework of Ethical

Principles in Gene Technology 2012

OGTR Monitoring and Compliance

Framework

OGTR Compliance and Enforcement Policy

OGTR Service Charter

Department of Health Stakeholder Engagement Framework

