

(RCGM, 2001)

Ka tangi tonu te ngakau
Ka matautau te hinengaro mo nga wa o mua i noho
tahi ai te tangata me ona rawa.

I te rereketanga o te ao nei i nga mea katoa
ka raruraru nga whakaaro o te tangata

Ka tahuri ki Te Kaihanga, Te Kaiwhakawa, kia homai
te maramatanga, te kaha me te rangimarie

Kia hiwa ra, kia hiwa ra, kia hiwa ra!

*A heart that sees and feels
That stands between past and future
Humanity once in balance with all nature
But as awareness of the world increases
We seek guidance and strength, serenity and peace
Preserving that which is sacred
For all generations to come
Let us always turn to the Great Spirit above
For guidance, wisdom and peace
Be watchful, be alert, be on guard.*

*Patere written for the Commission by
Pihopa Kingi and Haare Williams*

ROYAL COMMISSION on
GENETIC MODIFICATION



27 July 2001

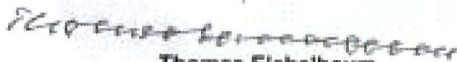
To Her Excellency, The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright, PCNZM, DBE,
Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over New Zealand

Your Excellency


Letter of transmittal

Pursuant to the terms of the Order in Council dated 8 May 2000, given
under the hand of His Excellency, The Right Honourable Sir Michael Hardie
Boys, GNZM, GCMG, the then Governor-General of New Zealand, we now
humbly submit our report for Your Excellency's consideration.

We have The Honour to be
Your Excellency's most obedient servants


Thomas Eichelbaum
Chair,
Royal Commission on
Genetic Modification


Jean Fleming
Commissioner


Jacqueline Allan
Commissioner


Richard Randerson
Commissioner

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The biotech three major proposals

1. The 21st century has been dubbed the biotechnology century. Genetic modification is but one of many new technologies likely to become available. New Zealanders have always been quick to adopt and adapt new technologies, in whatever field they arise. Biotechnology will be no exception.
2. Adoption of the new, however, should not be done uncritically. While the Commission has recommended an openness to genetic modification, we have proposed appropriate safeguards to ensure the well-being of the community and the environment.
3. To provide for ongoing oversight of biotechnological developments, the Commission makes three further proposals: a bioethics council, a parliamentary commissioner on biotechnology, and a biotechnology strategy.

Toi te Taiao : the Bioethics Council

4. Ethical, cultural and spiritual concerns underlay much of what we heard about genetic modification and biotechnology.
5. The current system of regulation for genetic modification and associated technologies operates through a number of ministries and government departments, assisted by advisory bodies, which provide policy advice to the Government. Some, like the Ministries of Health, and Agriculture and Forestry, implement those policies. Other regulatory functions are carried out by separate bodies such as the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) and the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA).
6. Under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO), ERMA and all other persons exercising powers or duties are directed to recognise and provide for "the maintenance and enhancement of the capacity of people and communities to provide for their own economic, social, and cultural wellbeing and for the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations" (section 5(b)). They are also directed to consider the relationship Māori have with their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu, plants, animals and other taonga (section 6(d)).