Environmental Protection Authority Te Mana Rauhī Taiao

#### Communication, Education and Public Awareness in EPA's risk assessment processes

**COP15 CEPA Fair: Importance of Communication, Education and Public Awareness in the risk analysis process** 

9 December 2022



#### **Our work at the EPA**

- New Zealand.
- substances.
- waters.
- Register.
- significant proposals.



We regulate and control the use of new organisms in

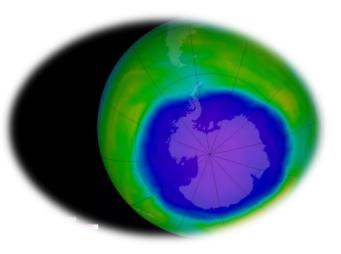
We regulate and control the use of hazardous

We set the rules for marine activities in our offshore

 We administer New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme and New Zealand's Emission Trading

We manage decision-making for nationally

 We manage rules that help protect the ozone layer. We give technical advice to other agencies.





### New Organisms

- All organisms that were not present in New Zealand on or immediately before 29 July 1998 are new organisms















The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (1996)

### All GMOs are new organisms by definition All new organisms must be approved by the EPA for release before they can be introduced into the environment











#### What is a GMO under HSNO?

For all practical intents and purposes, a GMO under the HSNO Act is also an LMO under the Cartagena Protocol



Protection Authori

- **Genetically modified organism** means, unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations, any organism in which any of the genes or other genetic material
  - (a) have been modified by in vitro techniques;
  - (b) are inherited or otherwise derived, through any number of replications, from any genes or other genetic material which has been modified by *in vitro* techniques



# **Pre-application**

- EPA strongly encourages potential applicants to keep Māori informed, and consult with them regarding work with LMOs
- Ideally, this takes the form of active, ongoing engagement, even partnership
- Facilitated by EPA's Kaupapa Kura Taiao team, which also provides a Māori impact assessment for applications

Te Tiriti o Waitangi February 6, 1840

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Consultation/engagement with Māori

#### **Public notification of applications**

#### What LMO application types are automatically publicly notified?

Public Notice

- Conditional releases
- Unconditional releases (except for most (veterinary) medicines)
- field testing
- EPA may publicly notify any application it deems to be of significant public interest



## The public notification process

- We announce all publicly notified applications on our website, social media websites (eg, Facebook, Twitter)
- We maintain a database of stakeholders who wish to be notified directly upon the formal acceptance of an application
  - Te Herenga network a group of interested and engaged Māori individuals and organisations
- 30 working day notification period for submissions If a submitter wishes to be heard by decision makers, a public hearing is held
- Submissions are also incorporated into the staff assessment for decision makers



Join a Meeting
Since in

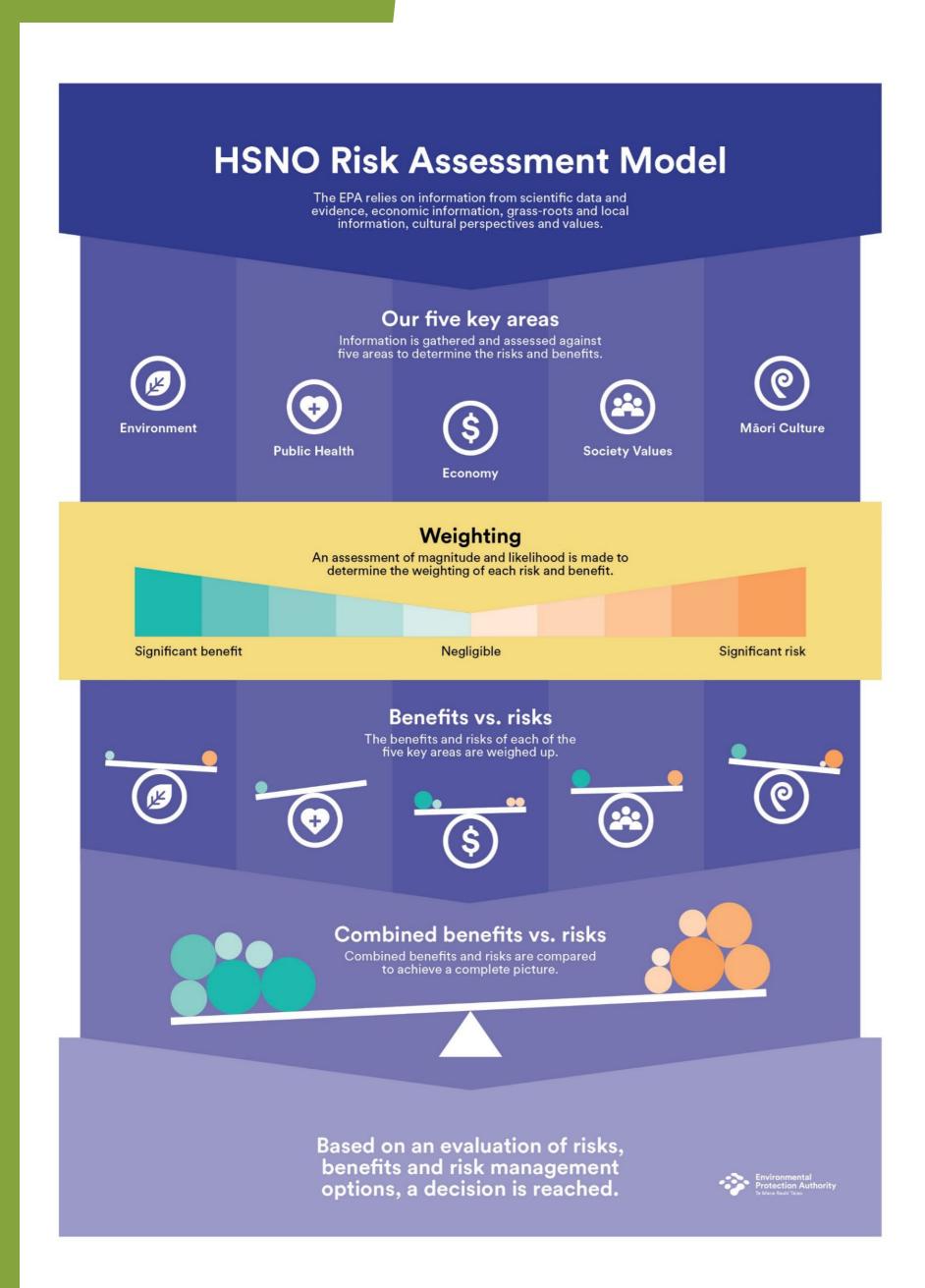
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#### **Approval for release**

- For any new organism to be released the EPA will:
  - Take into account all the information presented to it, including all public submissions and statements/testimony at hearings
  - Evaluate the benefits of the release against the risks. The benefits must outweigh the risks for approval to proceed



#### After the decision

# EPA open book policy – Applications, decisions, staff advice and supporting documentation are published on our website Press enquiries regarding our LMO approvals are received and responded to regularly Te Putara newsletter (<u>https://www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/newsletters/te-putara/</u>)

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ERMA200479_Application Appendix 9 and 10.pdf (PDF, 121 KB)	
ERMA200479_Application Form 4 Forms Regulations.pdf (PDF, 201 KB)	
ERMA200479_Application summary - FINAL.pdf (PDF, 62 KB)	
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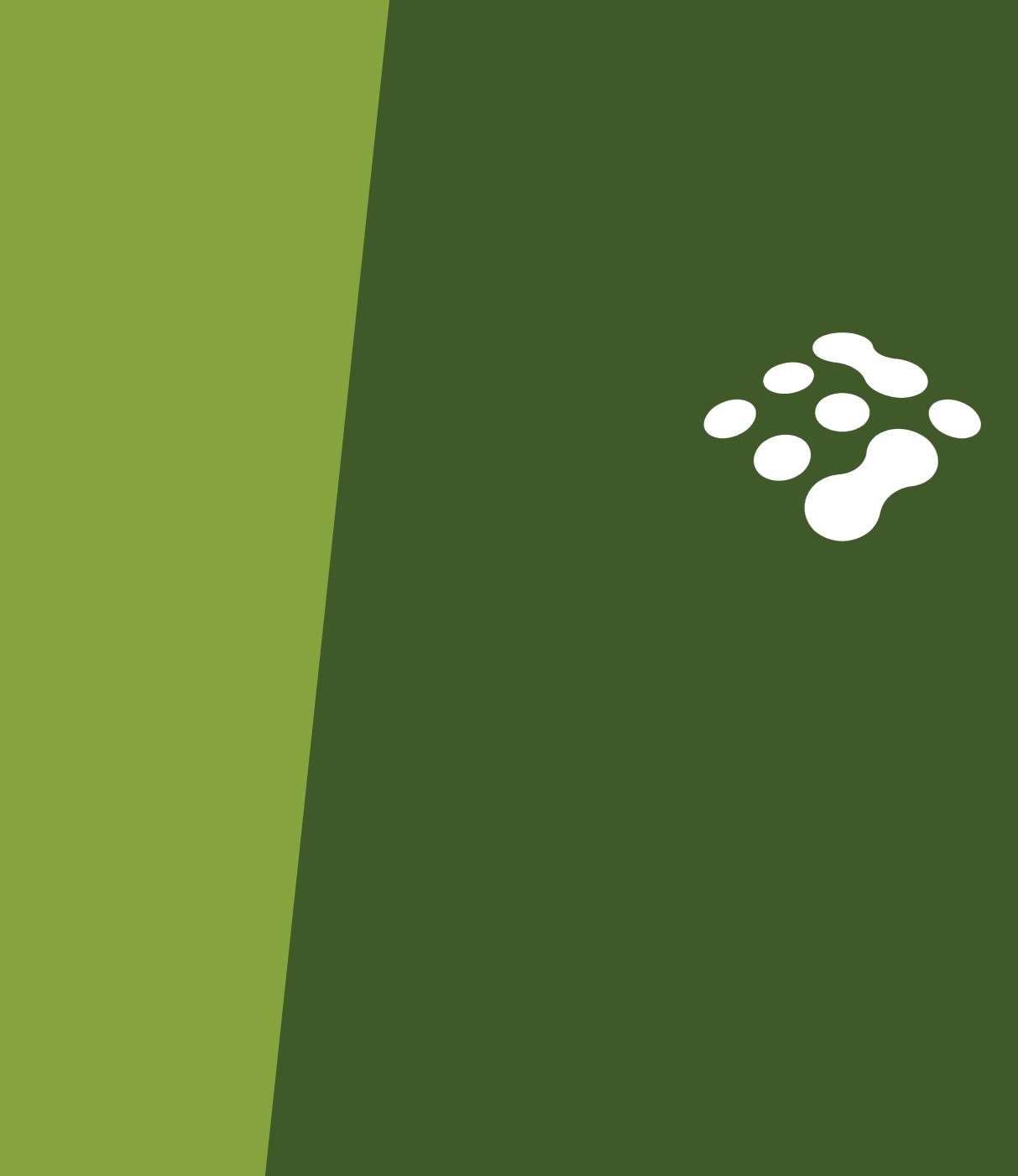


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