



Environmental
Protection Authority
Te Mana Rauhi Taiao

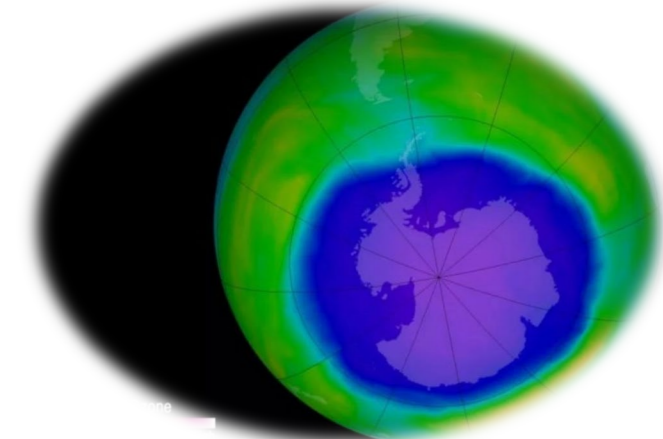
Communication, Education and Public Awareness in EPA's risk assessment processes

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

9 December 2022

Our work at the EPA

- We regulate and control the use of new organisms in New Zealand.
- We regulate and control the use of hazardous substances.
- We set the rules for marine activities in our offshore waters.
- We administer New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme and New Zealand's Emission Trading Register.
- We manage decision-making for nationally significant proposals.
- We manage rules that help protect the ozone layer.
- We give technical advice to other agencies.



New Organisms

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (1996)

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

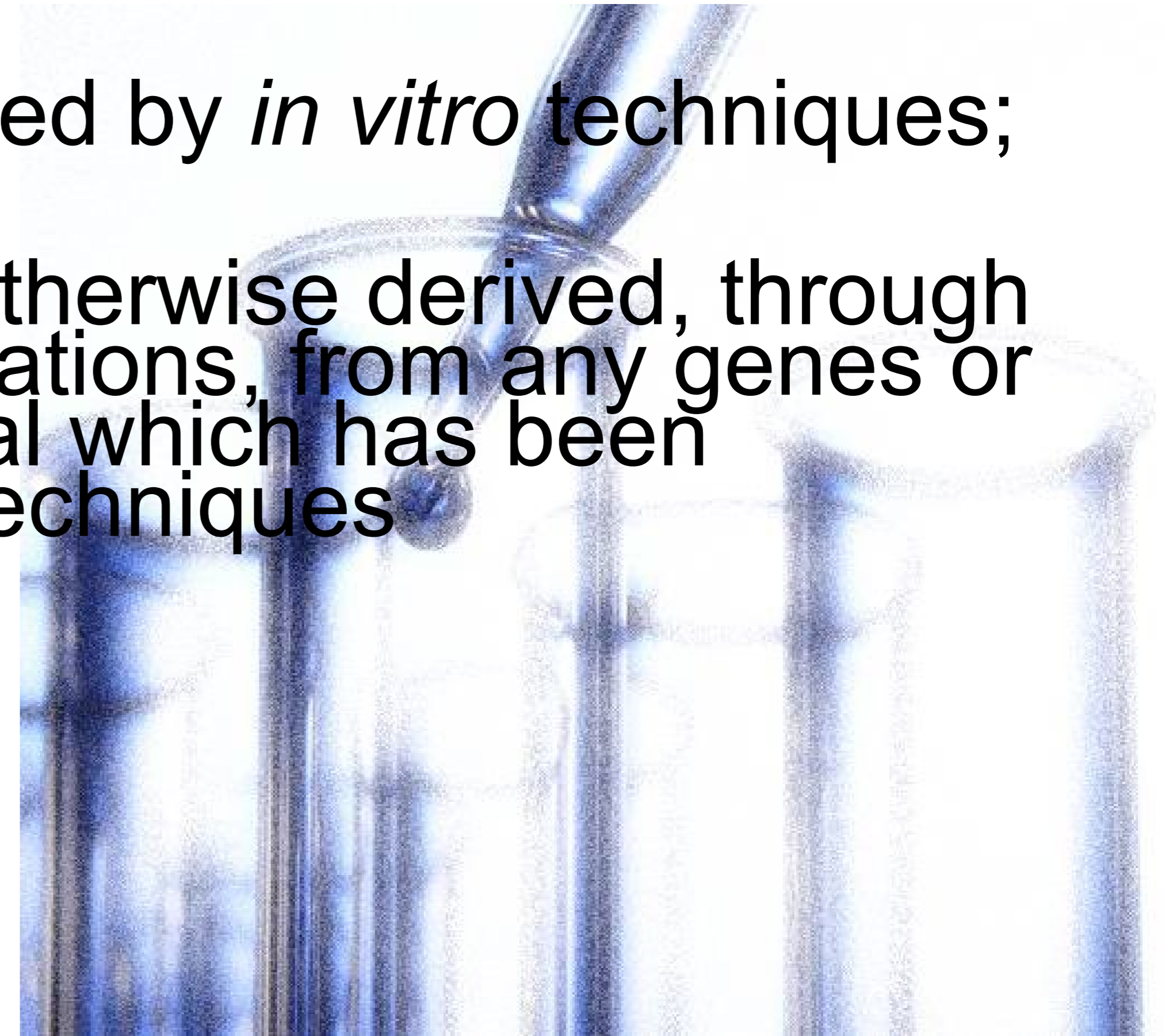


What is a GMO under HSNO?

Genetically modified organism means, unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations, any organism in which any of the genes or other genetic material –

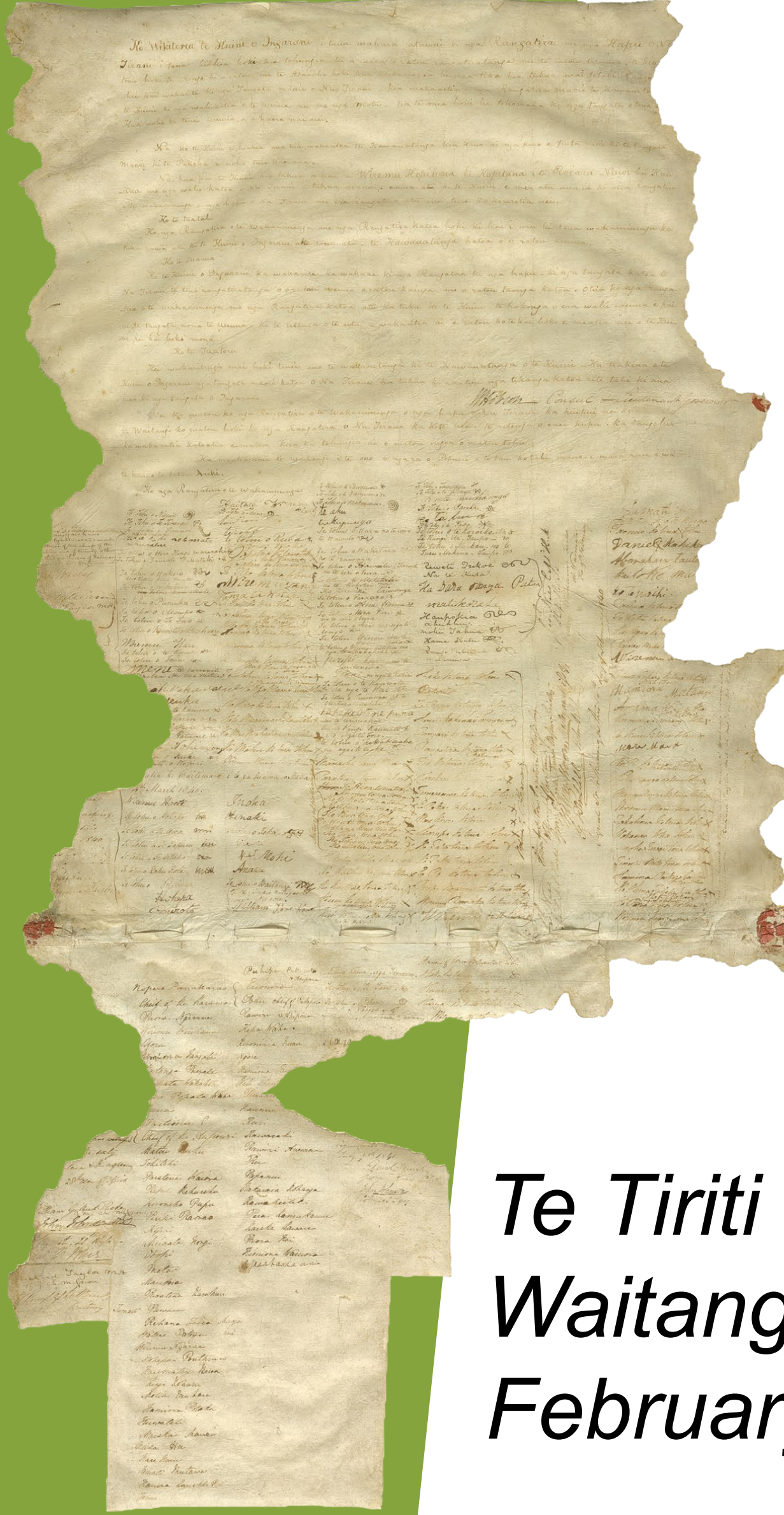
- (a) have been modified by *in vitro* techniques;
or
- (b) are inherited or otherwise derived, through any number of replications, from any genes or other genetic material which has been modified by *in vitro* techniques

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




Pre-application

- Consultation/engagement with Māori
 - 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



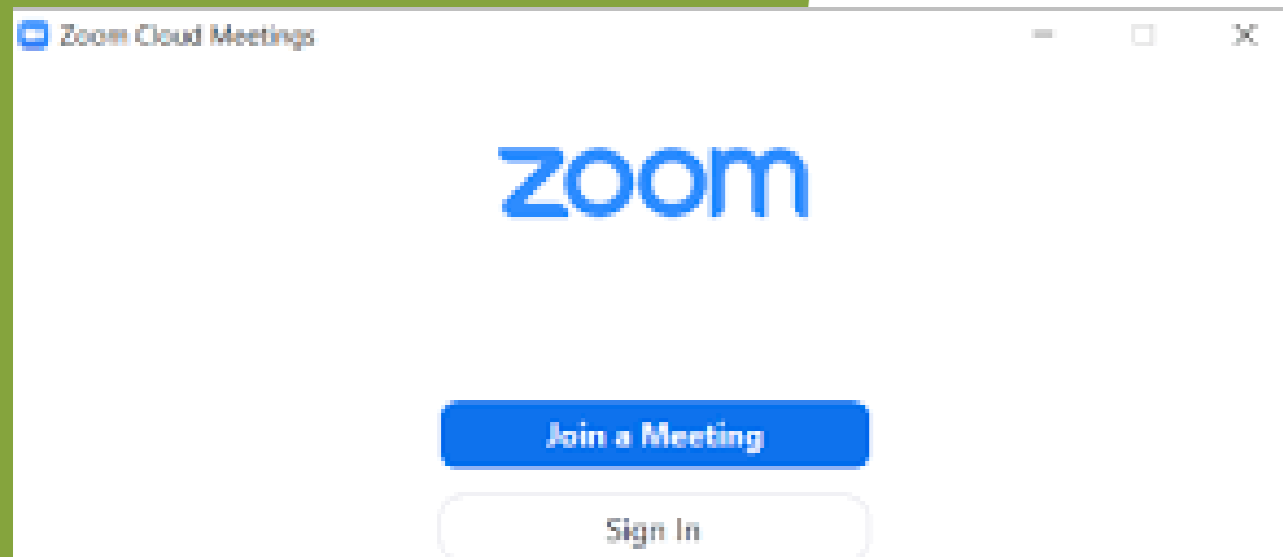
*Te Tiriti o
Waitangi
February 6, 1840*

Public notification of applications

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- ***What LMO application types are automatically publicly notified?***
 - 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

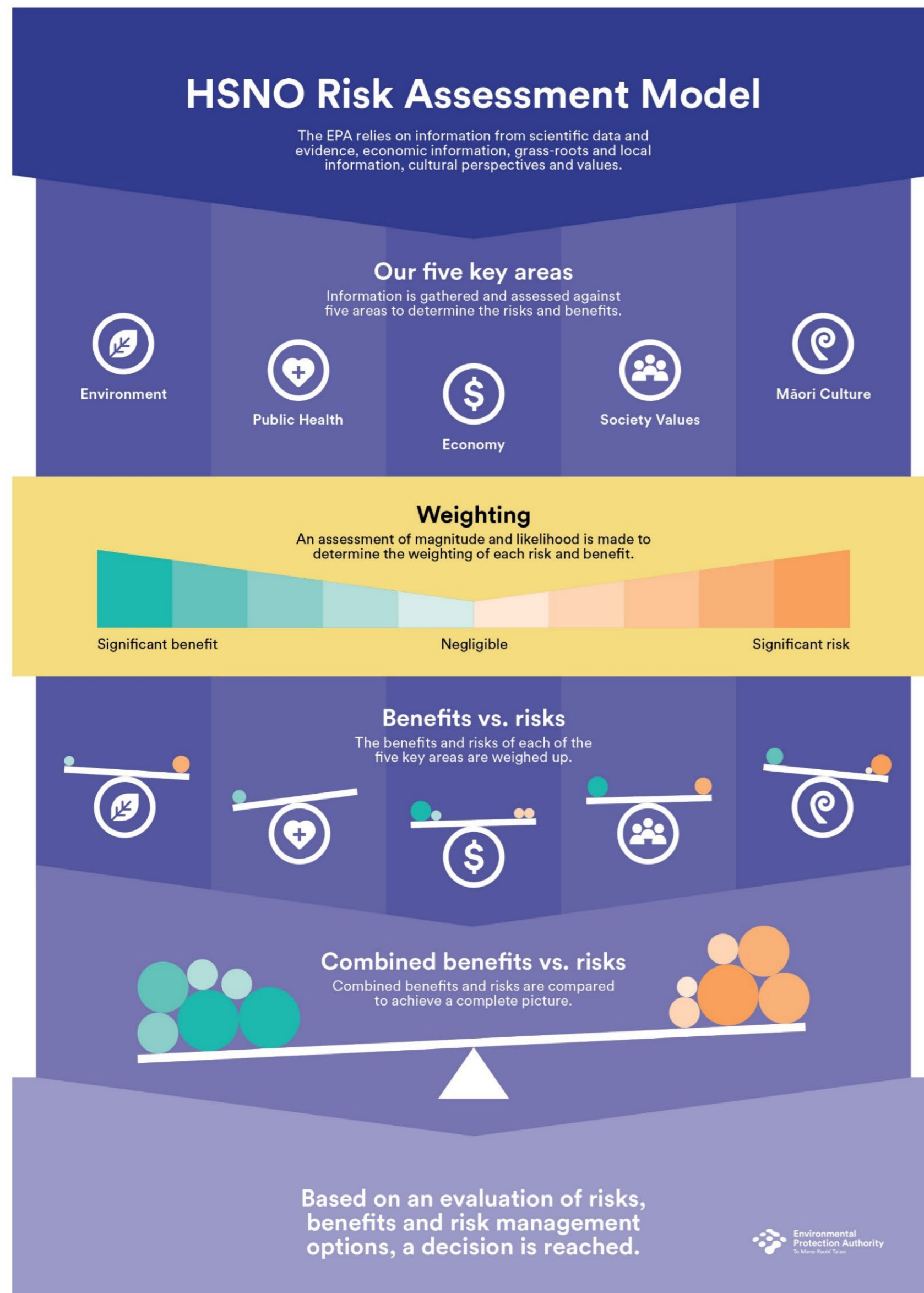
- We announce all publicly notified applications on our website, social media websites (eg, Facebook, Twitter)
- We maintain a database of stakeholders who wish to be notified directly upon the formal acceptance of an application
 - Te Herenga network – a group of interested and engaged Māori individuals 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



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



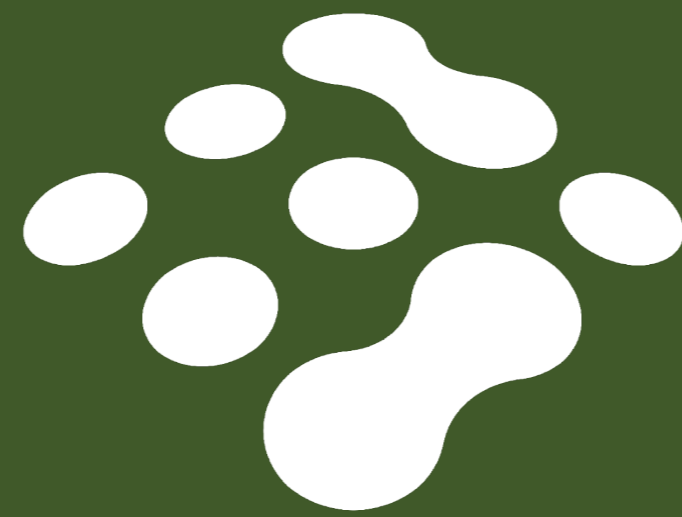
After the decision

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 (<https://www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/newsletters/te-putara/>)





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