



8. GE FREE ZONE FOR CHRISTCHURCH

Paul de Spa from Groundswell/GE Free Canterbury and Matt Morris of the Organic Garden City Trust addressed the Committee seeking support for a proposal to declare a GE free zone for Christchurch.

The matter had previously been considered by the Council, which at the time had decided to take no further action until it had had the opportunity to examine the report of the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification. That report was now available and therefore the deputation considered it timely to explore the options open to Christchurch City regarding its policy on the use of genetically modified organisms, particularly their use in food and the environment.

Mr de Spa suggested that the Council could lead the debate on the issue as well as setting its own premises in order in the purchase of food and other commodities.

Mr Morris expressed the view that Christchurch could not be an organic city if it was to allow GE.

The matter was taken in conjunction with clause no 2.