

# Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

**Name:** Alan Liefiting

**Organisation:** Not applicable

**Daytime Phone:** (03)385-3830

**Email:** aliefting@ihug.co.nz

**Address:** 107 Warrington Street St Albans Christchurch

**Your Submission:** Consideration of the regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms in the Long Term Council Community Plan.

The moratorium on genetically modified organisms (GMO's) was lifted in October 2003. It is now possible for GMO's to be planted on land within the jurisdiction of the Christchurch City Council.

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is the regulatory body which approves the release of GMO's in New Zealand. Some doubts have been made as to the robustness of ERMA as a national regulatory body. The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) sets a minimum framework for assessing GMO's. ERMA has been given a great deal of discretion. Local government may be required to address liabilities stemming from GMO's. From this it follows that the Christchurch City Council must address the regulation of GMO's.

It would be prudent for the Christchurch City Council to take the precautionary approach with GMO's.

Could Christchurch perhaps become Nuclear-free and GE-free?

Background Information:

(1) Polls show a high percentage of residents oppose the introduction of GMO's.

(2) Pollen from GMO crops have been shown to travel over 500 metres and cause cross pollination with other crops.

(3) Studies have shown that the financial benefits of GE crops are doubtful.