



## Notice of Hearing

### ERMA200706 and ERMA200792

#### - *Arabidopsis thaliana* import and development

Note: These arrangements are provisional, based on the intentions of the parties to appear as advised to the EPA, and hence are subject to amendment if those intentions change, and are subject to the directions of the Chair.

<b>Application code:</b>	ERMA200706 and ERMA200792
<b>Application category:</b>	New Organisms, Notified, GM Development, Containment
<b>Applicants:</b>	AgResearch Canterbury University Lincoln University Massey University Plant & Food Research Scion Research University of Auckland University of Otago ViaLactia Biosciences New Zealand
<b>Applicant contact:</b>	Elspeth MacRae
<b>Purpose:</b>	To import and develop <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> in containment to investigate gene function and gene delivery systems, to develop new bioassays
<b>Date application received:</b>	13 March 2012
<b>Hearing date:</b>	20 June 2012
<b>Time:</b>	10.00am
<b>Venue:</b>	Wellington Town Hall, Square Affair Suite, Wakefield Street, Wellington
<b>Contact for Hearing:</b>	Katherine Dewhurst

### Decision-making Committee

Helen Atkins (Chair)

Dr Shaun Ogilvie

Richard Woods

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## Sequence of Events

1. Introduction and explanation from the Chair
2. Order of business and procedures
  - Applicant presents application
  - EPA staff to present the EPA Advice Report
  - Submitters present submissions and any witnesses
  - Final questions from the Committee
  - Adjournment of hearing

The above is a guide only and the conduct of the hearing will be at the Chair's discretion and in accordance with the guidelines provided.

## Submissions

Submitters have been allocated a maximum of 15 minutes (including questions). The order of appearance is detailed over the page.

## Presentation of Evidence and Information

Pre-circulated evidence (including submissions) will be taken as read by all parties and does not need to be read verbatim at the hearing. Presenters should use the limited time available to highlight key points, and remember to allow time for questions of clarification and explanation.

Witnesses may refer to published material authored by others as part of their evidence. Sources of such material should be clearly identified. Witnesses presenting such information are expected to be able to justify their use of such information and to be questioned on their analysis and conclusions relating to such information.

Where information is presented at a hearing that has not been disclosed to the EPA or to the other parties, the Chair may adjourn the hearing to allow other parties, including staff of the EPA, to assess and respond to the new information.

There will be no cross-examination of parties or their witnesses at the hearing. At the conclusion of each person's evidence, the Chair and members of the Decision Making Committee may ask questions of that person. The Chair will then invite any other party to put questions of clarification or explanation to the witness. Such questions may be put only with the leave of the Chair who has the discretion to disallow any question.

## Final Decision

At the end of all the presentations the Committee will adjourn the hearing and will make its decision in private. A final decision will be made usually within 30 working days but may be longer if further information is sought by the Committee. You will be notified of the decision and it will also be available on the EPA website at [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz).

## News Media Guidelines

- A suitable space will be available for conducting interviews – please contact Sarah Kenward Senior Communications Advisor on (04) 918 4813 / 021 976 853.
- Copies of relevant papers will be available from the EPA beforehand, or at the hearing.
- No cameras (still or video) or tape recordings are permitted after proceedings are formally under way. EPA staff can assist to set up for “scene setting” shots at the start or during the break.
- The EPA has a media policy for hearings, available on request or on the website. The EPA is a semi judicial body and therefore Committee members do not comment on applications. General enquiries about the application process can be directed to Sarah Kenward, Senior Communications Advisor EPA, and interviews can be arranged with the Chief Executive at the EPA office in Wellington if required.

## Contact details

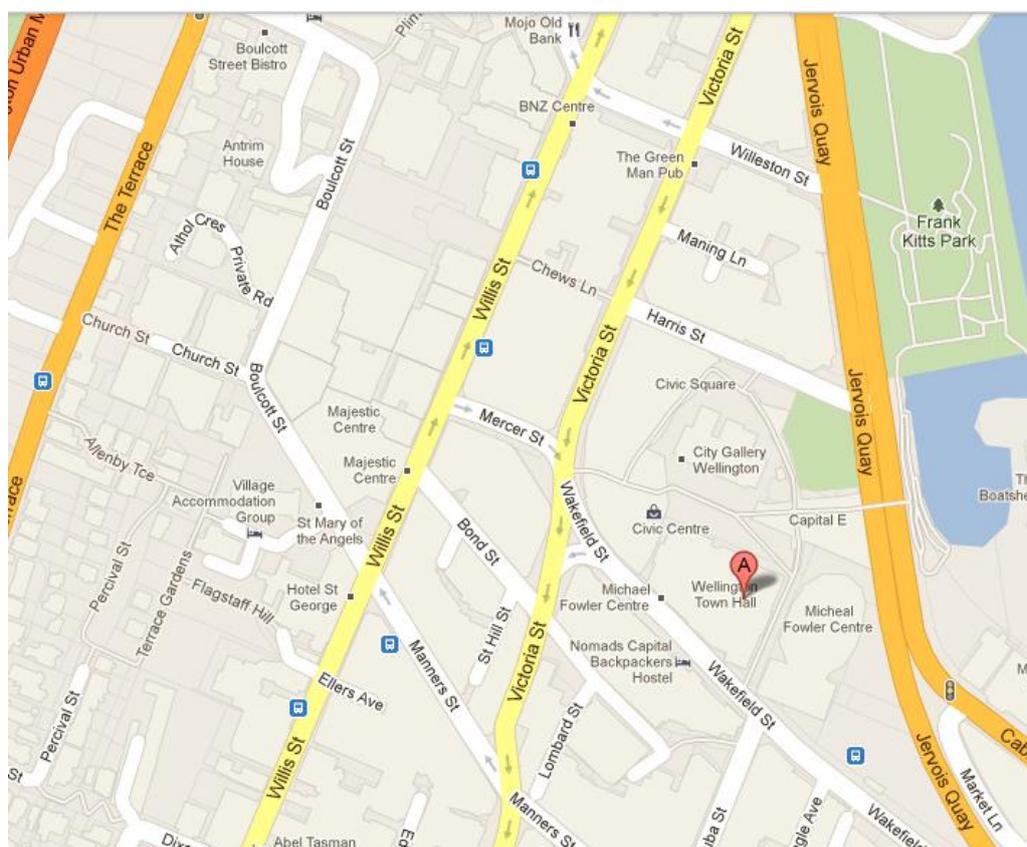
If you need to contact someone at the hearing please call 021 674 951.

## Hearing Venue

Square Affair Suite, Wellington Town Hall (Ground Floor)

111 Wakefield Street, Wellington

04 801 4231



## Housekeeping Details

- Coffee and tea making facilities will be available. Parties are responsible for their own food arrangements
- Cell phones should be turned off
- No food will be permitted in the hearing room
- No filming or photos of proceedings to be taken
- Please refer to the map for directions to the venue.

## Order of Business

Please note that these are approximate session times and are dependent on the length of questioning by the Committee and the appearance of submitters at the hearing.

10.00am	Wednesday 20 June 2012
Introduction and explanation Record of appearances	<b>Helen Atkins</b> , Chair, Decision Making Committee
Applicant Presentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Dr Elspeth MacRae</b>, General Manager Manufacturing and Bioproducts, Scion - <i>Presentation of application</i> (20 mins)</li> <li>2. <b>Mariette Komene</b>, spokesperson for the facility operator group - <i>Expert witness</i> (10 mins)</li> <li>3. <b>Roger Hellens</b>, spokesperson for the expert user panel - <i>Expert witness</i> (10 mins)</li> </ol>
EPA Staff Advice Report	1. <b>Dr Seumas McCroskery</b> , Senior Environmental Risk Advisor, Environmental Protection Authority - <i>Presentation of the EPA Advice Report and proposed controls</i> (60 mins)
Submitters	1. <b>GE Free New Zealand</b> (#102564) (15 mins)
Final questions	Decision Making Committee
Applicant's response to matters raised (if necessary)	
Hearing adjournment	

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## Advice to Participants

### (Applicants and Submitters) in Hearings

Hearings are an opportunity for the Authority to be fully informed on an application, and for the parties to put before the Authority information which is relevant to the application under consideration. The emphasis should be on the effects, risks, costs and benefits of the application in the context of the statutory framework of the HSNO Act.

To help ensure that this is the case the following guidelines apply. These guidelines apply to both applicants and submitters.

1. Submissions and presentations at hearings (by applicants and submitters) should raise issues which are relevant to the application and are not simply of a general character.
2. Issues of a general nature previously dealt with by the Authority in decisions should only be raised in submissions if these contain new information, which helps to further develop the treatment of the issues relevant to *this* application.
3. Your presentation should focus on the key points raised in your submission.
4. Applicants and submitters are entitled to bring witnesses who will speak to their submission. Witnesses should be able to bring expertise or special knowledge to bear on the matters raised in the submission.
5. At least two weeks prior to the hearing, both the applicant and submitters should provide a written list of the witnesses they propose to call, their areas of expertise, and the elements of the submission or application they propose to talk to. If this information is not provided the witness may only be called at the express leave of the Chair of the hearing.
6. Applicants, submitters and their witnesses are expected to pre-circulate to the Authority and to all other parties attending the hearing, copies of any information they intend to present to the hearing, at least 10 working days prior to the hearing. Parties should work on the basis that members of the Committee will have read the application, submissions and other circulated information prior to the hearing. It is therefore not necessary to read this information verbatim at the hearing. Parties should instead use their allotted time at the hearing to highlight their key points and be prepared to answer any questions which the Committee may have.
7. Applicants, submitters and their witnesses will normally have a maximum of 15 minutes to make their presentation to the hearing. This time includes provision for questions of clarification by members or by other parties. If any party believes they have good reason why they should have a longer time to make their presentation, this should be submitted in writing to the EPA at least three weeks prior to the hearing. Any such extensions will be at the discretion of the Chair.

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**Note:**

The Chair has discretion to vary these procedural guidelines if special circumstances apply. For example, if there are a large number of submitters making very similar submissions e.g. copied from a pro forma on a website, and they all wish to appear at the hearing, the Chair may set an overall guide on the time for that group of submissions.

8. There will be limitations on questioning of submitters by the applicant or by other submitters. Questions must be questions of clarification and must be asked through the Chair of the hearing. The applicant has the opportunity to follow submitters with its response to issues raised. Other than this, responses, which are not genuine questions of clarification, will not be permitted.
9. Persons may present information to the hearing in Māori. Those who wish to do so should contact the EPA at least two weeks in advance so that arrangements can be made for a translator.