

Field test GMF99001 and GMF99005

This report relates to control 7.4 in the field test approval for GMF99001. At present there are no activities related to GMF 99005.

### **1. The continued viability of the project.**

The contained field site in Rotorua continues to be a viable experiment for the study of genetically modified trees.

#### **Trees:**

There are currently no genetically modified trees planted on site.

#### **Cuttings:**

There are currently no cuttings of genetically modified trees on site

#### **Audit:**

Biannual audits conducted by MAF have not identified any problems with the trials.

### **2. Interference with the trial**

On 14 January 2008, a criminal breach of the field trial was discovered. A hole had been dug beneath the fence, which was then cut, enabling access under the electrified portion of the fence. One or more perpetrators then cut down 17 small *P. radiata* trees (1-2 meters high) that were genetically modified, along with 2 non-modified control trees. After police and regulatory authorities had investigated the crime scene, the breach was repaired and security at the site was increased.

The remaining trees which were used for our experiments to evaluate gene expression and assess environmental impacts, were unharmed.

### **3. Plan of activities for the coming year**

All genetically modified trees were felled during 2008 and a decomposition trial set up. Material in this trial will be used for analysis over the next 2 years.

All genetically modified cuttings were removed from the trial site during 2008.

### **4. Records on any precocious reproductive structures found.**

The trial site was monitored over the year at weekly intervals. An experienced staff member checked every tree for the appearance of vegetative or reproductive buds. No reproductive buds were found on any of the field-planted *Pinus radiata* trees.