



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the NZ Food Safety Authority on the
Draft Terms of Reference and Project Proposal for
Foods Derived From Biotechnology**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 41 nationally organised societies. It has 33 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies as well as individual members.

NCWNZ thanks for the opportunity to comment on this proposed draft document. NCWNZ has a long history of interest and commenting on food derived from modern Biotechnology dating back to 1992, when at its national conference a resolution was passed "Urging the government to establish a national ethics committee to set standards for all biotechnical research and that these standards be open to public scrutiny".

1. The Objects and Terms of reference we consider to be reasonable. While considering the time frame long we readily acknowledge the amount of research to be undertaken within that time.
2. Criteria for the establishment of work priorities. NCWNZ considers food safety of paramount importance, and endorses the objectives you have listed. Members when consulted expressed concerns that food safety apply not only to human but also stock foods. Our rural members have particular concerns following foot and mouth and BSE scares in Britain.
3. NCWNZ considers traceability of both primary foods and food components is vital where genetic modification or genetic engineering has been undertaken in their production or manufacture. Labelling that permits traceability is of paramount importance so that consumers are given correct information enabling them to make informed choices.
4. We believe the four aspects as listed in section 3 of your document will prove a valuable starting point of the project.

NCWNZ thanks you again for the opportunity of being involved in this project and appreciates being kept informed on the outcomes of your research.

Beryl Anderson
National President

Eileen Imlach
Convener, Consumer affairs Standing Committee

