

## ***GeneEthics – Your Voice for GM-free, Biosafety and Biosecurity***

**We trust that you, your family, friends and communities are safe and well.** Thanks to all the frontline workers — health, fire-fighters, carers, food suppliers, and others in essential services — who are steering us through the disastrous damage and disruption that the summer bushfires and global coronavirus pandemic continue to cause.

**Many thanks also to you.** Your loyal and generous support for GeneEthics has sustained our campaigns, advocacy and information roles for thirty-three years.

**Please donate to and join GeneEthics again this year.** Our work promoting safe, sustainable, GM-free paths to the future is more important now than ever, and will reduce the risk of more pandemics.

**Our message has always been** that unwise and incautious meddling with the microbes, animals and plants with which we share planet Earth can cause havoc. Humanity must stop mistreating our natural life support systems or we will reap more whirlwinds.

**The need for better biosafety and biosecurity is now starkly real.**

The virus's origins remain unclear - bats in caves, food and wild-life trade, or high security labs. Whatever the source, we continue to argue for stronger regulations, more precaution, and better preparedness to manage Genetically Manipulated (GM) organisms, in labs and factories as well as out in nature.

- **GeneEthics is authoring a report on the biosafety lessons for citizens, governments and health experts to take from the coronavirus pandemic.** We support a global inquiry into the origins and spread of human and animal pathogens, including the integrity of the high security labs which operate in many countries, including Australia.
- **We are calling on Australian governments to reverse the reckless de-regulation** of several new gene-editing methods named SDN1 (Site Directed Nucleases1) last year, despite public and expert protests. SDN1 organisms are no longer notified to the Office of Gene Technology Regulator for assessment or licensing before release, tearing a hole in GM regulations.
- **We are working with South Australians** to keep their state GM-free. The SA government lifted the GM crops ban but local councils still have the option of declaring their areas GM-free Zones. We are advising, informing and encouraging our SA supporters how to engage with the process.



**Please  
donate to a  
GM-free future  
by June 30, 2020**

**for your tax deduction in  
this financial year**

- **We monitor regulators - the OGTR (Gene Tech Regulator), FSANZ (Food Standards Australia NZ) and the APVMA (Pesticide and Vet Medicines Authority).** Our latest objection is to a Bayer/Monsanto application for GM corn that tolerates being sprayed with 12 different herbicides, leaving chemical residues in our foods.
- **We also oppose the FSANZ plan** to deregulate food products derived from animals, plants and microbes made using new GM gene-editing processes that they call “New Breeding Techniques”.

## ***This year we are working for:***

- No GM corn, potato and soy in our food supply;
- More youth engagement on GM hazards and impacts;
- Less chemical use and more Roundup-free councils;
- A Chemical Re-Approval and Re-Registration Scheme;
- Ban gene drives, organisms intended to make ‘troublesome’ species extinct.



## ***GeneEthics’ proven track record:***

- Over 95% of Australian farmers remain GM-free;
- GM canola has declined to less than 15% of the crop;
- GM cotton and canola grow on less than 1% of Australian croplands;
- States and territories (Tas; ACT; NT; and Kangaroo Island in SA) remain GM-free;
- Around fifty councils replacing Roundup for weed control;
- More GM-free labels on food products.

You are the rock on which GM-free and GeneEthics are founded.

Peace, joy, and many thanks for your backing,



Bob Phelps  
Executive Director



Beatrice Ludwig  
Chair of the Board

**PS: Please Give to and Join GeneEthics again this year,**  
Any amount you can afford will be much appreciated and wisely used!

- **Tax deductible donations**  
<https://www.givenow.com.au/foegeneethics>
- **Membership 2020/21**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BJMAT>
- **EFT transfer (no tax deduction)**  
GeneEthics Ltd BSB: 633 000 Account #: 119595643

We work on the traditional lands of the Bunurong and Wurrundjeri people, over which title was never ceded. We pay our sincere respects to their elders - past, present and emerging.