



Possible changes to gene technology regulation in New Zealand

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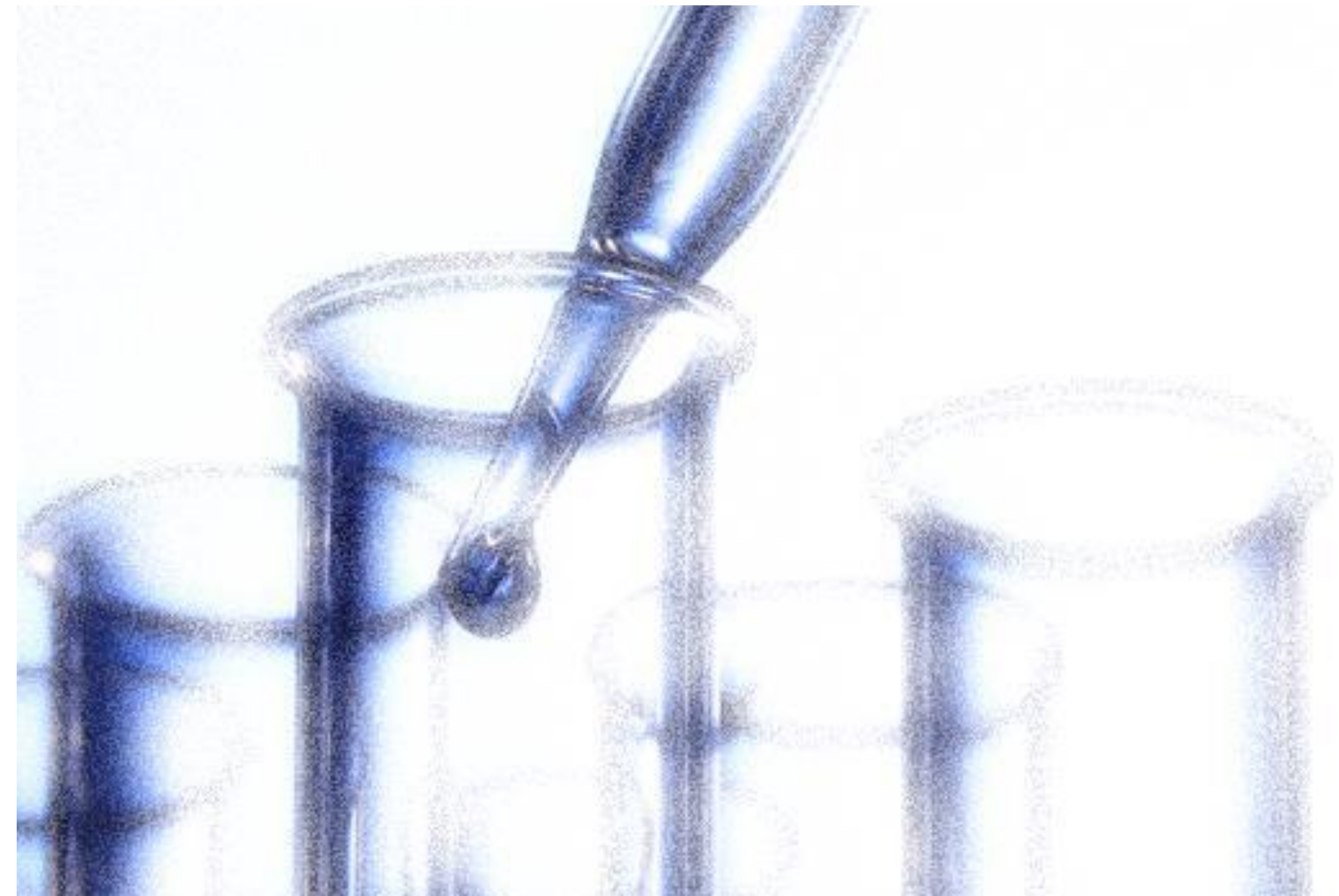
New legislation regulating GMOs

- In early 2024, the Science Minister instructed officials to draft new legislation intended to better enable the use of GMOs in New Zealand.
- The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is leading this work.
- In the meantime, the current pathways still apply and can be used.



The Gene Technology Bill

- Current regulation of GMOs is under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.
- The legislation will abolish the treatment of GMOs as New Organisms under the HSNO Act.
- Such organisms will be regulated in the stand-alone Gene Technology legislation



The Gene Technology Regulator

- The new legislation is to be modelled on the Australian Gene Technology Act
- New Zealand will have a new independent gene technology regulator, housed at the Environmental Protection Authority.
- Similar to Australia, certain gene editing modifications will be exempt from regulation.

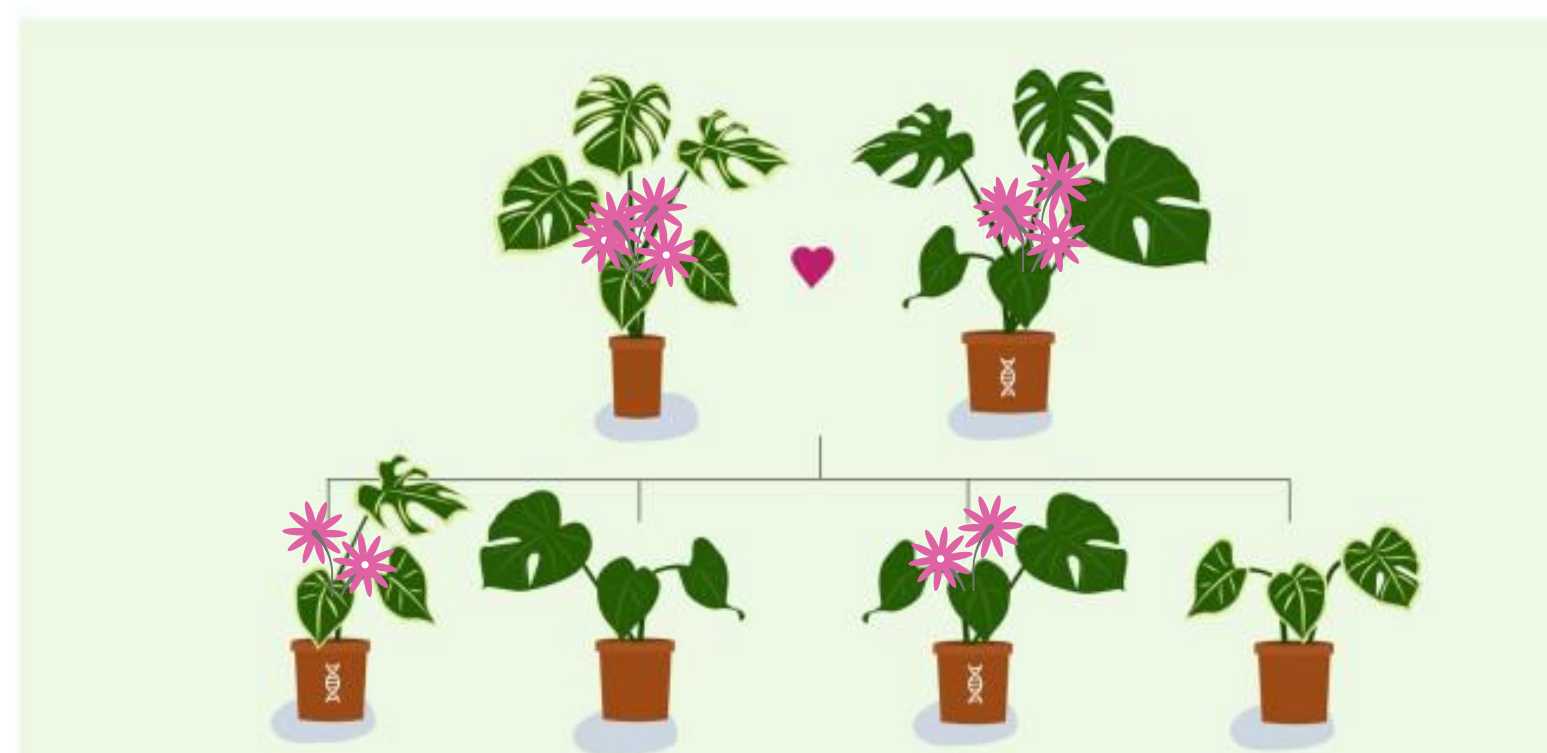
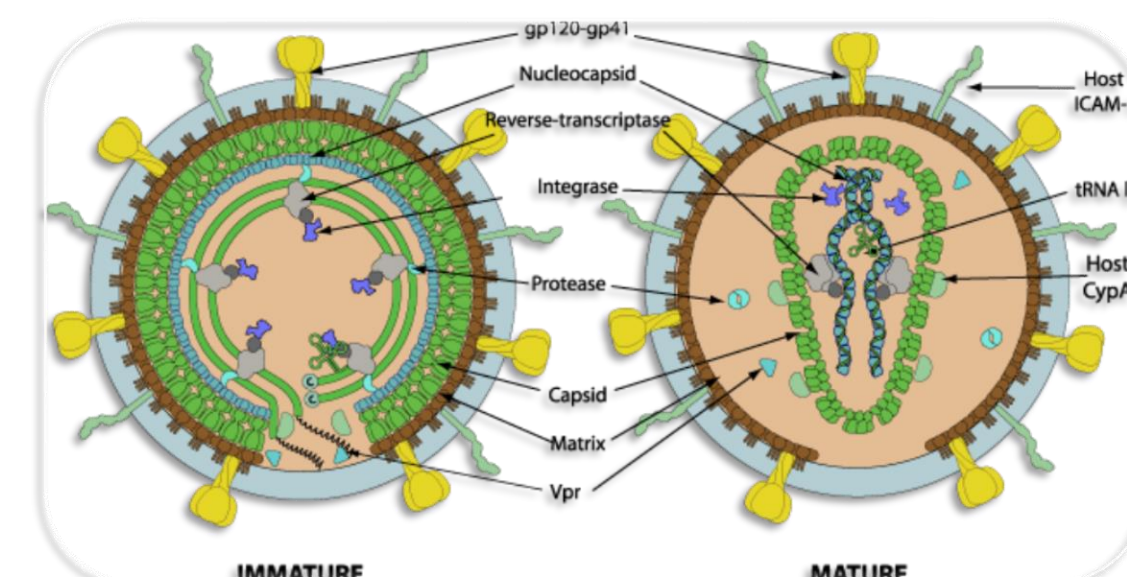
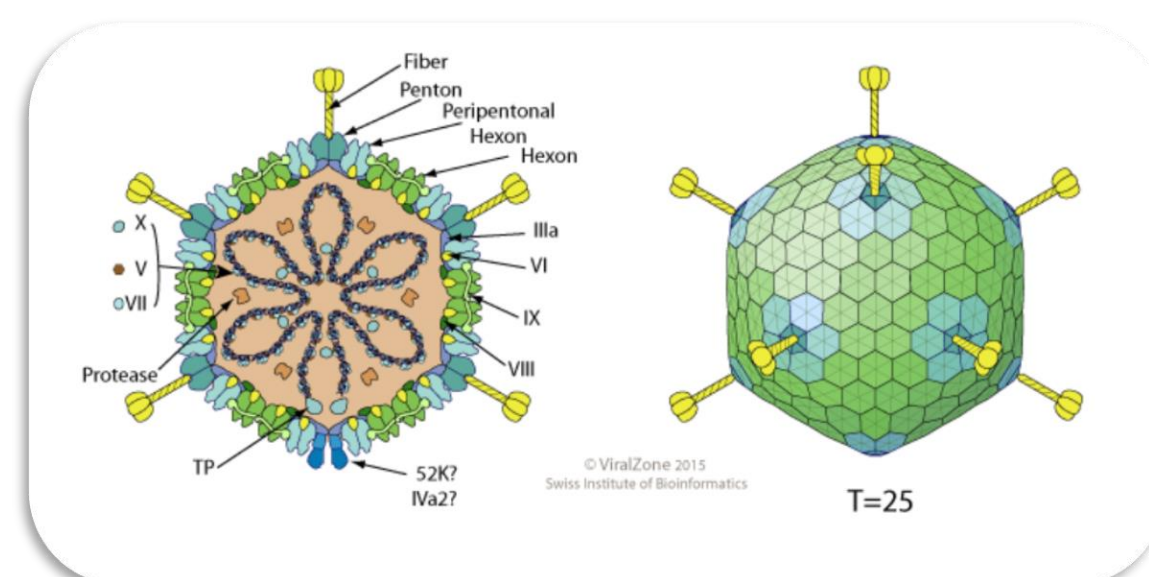
The Gene Technology Regulator

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- Similar to Australia, certain gene editing modifications will be exempt from regulation.
- For regulated organisms, a risk-tiering system is proposed, with varying levels of Regulator oversight and involvement.



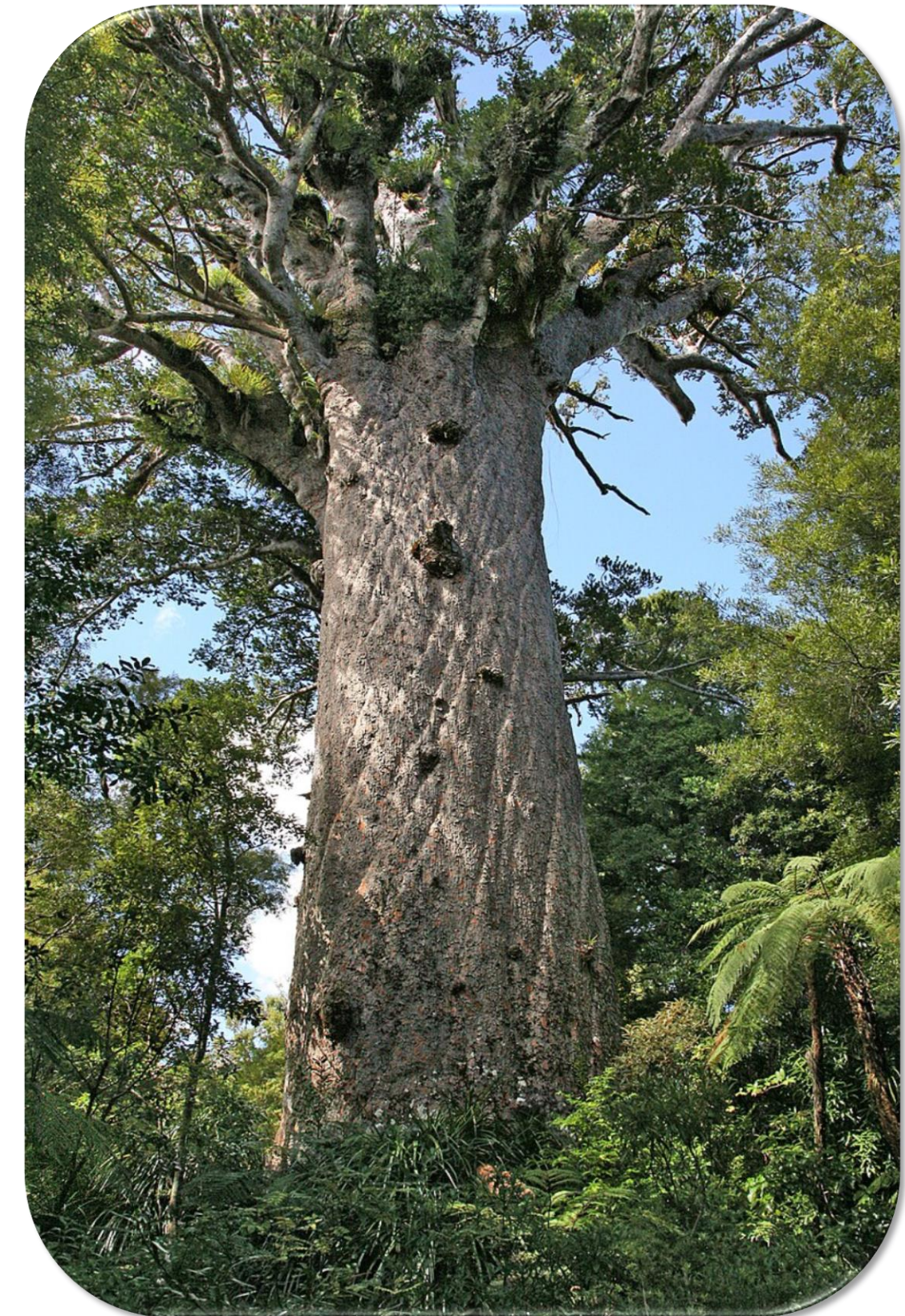
Some differences to OGTR Australia

- The regulator will have a statutory determination power
- Existing statutory determinations will be carried through to the new legislation



Some differences to OGTR Australia

- A Māori Advisory Committee will assist the new regulator regarding their views on gene technology, particularly regarding valued (taonga) species in New Zealand.



Proposed changes from the status quo

- The new legislation is expected to ease regulations regarding field tests of organisms modified by gene technology in New Zealand.
- The legislation is planned to be fully operational by early 2026.







Environmental Protection Authority

Te Mana Rauhi Taiao

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