

# CERTIFICATION & ACCREDITATION

Certification and accreditation are pillars of the National Gene Technology Scheme. Certification ensures facilities and work practices are effective to contain genetically modified organisms. Accreditation establishes governance structures that support regulatory compliance.

The Gene Technology Amendment Bill (the draft Bill) will maintain certification and accreditation and strengthen their role in the Scheme.

## What is proposed to change?

Three key changes are proposed in the draft Bill:

1. The requirements for accreditation and certification will be specified in the rules made by the Gene Technology Regulator, rather than in guidelines as is currently done.
2. Decision criteria for accreditation and certification will be included in the Act.
3. Holders of accreditation and certification may be liable for offences and civil penalties for breaches of conditions, to address significant non-compliance.

These changes respond to trends in who is using gene technology and where that work is occurring, in particular, the increased use of large, multi-user facilities.

### Recommendation 10

The Third Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme recommended reducing regulatory burden through streamlining processes and current regulatory requirements where appropriate. As an example - this may include streamlining facility certifications and application processes.

### Want more detail?

You can review the proposed changes to certification and accreditation in the draft Gene Technology Amendment Bill.

The policy rationale for these changes has been outlined in the Consultation Paper: Draft Gene Technology Amendment Bill.

The proposed changes relating to accreditation and certification in the draft Bill are under consideration and may vary slightly following consultation.

Contact us for more information on this consultation:

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