



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

19 March 2014

## Invitation to comment on commercial release of genetically modified (GM) cotton

Australia's gene technology regulatory system is designed to protect the health and safety of people and the environment by identifying risks posed by, or as a result of, gene technology and managing those risks.

The Gene Technology Regulator is currently assessing licence application DIR 124 from Monsanto Australia Ltd for a commercial release of two types of GM cotton. Bollgard<sup>®</sup> III cotton has been genetically modified for insect resistance and Bollgard<sup>®</sup> III x Roundup Ready Flex<sup>®</sup> cotton has been genetically modified both for insect resistance and for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate.

Subject to any State government requirements imposed for marketing reasons, the proposed commercial release of the GM cotton plants would be Australia wide. Products from the GM cotton plants are proposed to be used in the same way as those from non-GM and other commercially approved GM cotton.

A consultation Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) has been prepared, which concludes that the proposed release would pose negligible risk to human health and safety or to the environment. Draft licence conditions are proposed to ensure there is ongoing oversight of the release.

The Regulator welcomes written submissions in order to finalise the RARMP, which will then inform the decision on whether or not to issue a licence. The consultation RARMP and related documents can be obtained from the OGTR website under '[What's New](#)' or by contacting the Office. Please quote application DIR 124 in any correspondence.

Submissions should be received by close of business on **14 May 2014**.

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