



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

14 October 2016

## Invitation to comment on a genetically modified (GM) banana field trial

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 146 from the Queensland University of Technology. The application is for a field trial (limited and controlled release) of banana genetically modified for disease resistance. The purpose of the field trial is to assess the level of disease resistance and the agronomic performance of the GM banana lines under field conditions.

The trial is proposed to take place at one site of up to 6 hectares in Litchfield Municipality, Northern Territory, from January 2017 to January 2022. The GM banana would not be used in human food or animal feed.

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. A range of draft licence conditions would limit the size, location and duration of the release, as well as restrict the spread and persistence of the GMOs and the introduced genetic material.

The Regulator welcomes written submissions in order to finalise the RARMP, which will then inform the decision on whether or not to issue the 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 146 in any correspondence.

Submissions should be received by close of business on **17 November 2016**.

**Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, MDP 54, GPO BOX 9848 CANBERRA ACT 2601**

**Telephone: 1800 181 030**

**Facsimile: 02 6271 4202**

**E-mail: [ogtr@health.gov.au](mailto:ogtr@health.gov.au)**

**OGTR website [www.ogtr.gov.au](http://www.ogtr.gov.au)**