



10 September 2018

Invitation to comment on a genetically modified (GM) canola 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 164 from Monsanto Australia Limited. The application is for a field trial (limited and controlled release) of canola plants genetically modified for herbicide tolerance. The purpose of the field trial is to assess agronomic performance of the GM canola in all canola growing areas of Australia.

The trial sites are proposed to be selected in 140 possible local government areas in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia between January 2020 and January 2024. The proposal is to plant up to 15 sites with a maximum combined area of 30 ha per year in 2020, increasing to 20 sites with a maximum combined area of 100 ha in 2023. The GM canola grown in this field trial would not be used for 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, locations 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 164 in any correspondence.

Submissions should be received by close of business on **22 October 2018**.

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