



30 July 2004

DECISION ON ISSUING A LICENCE FOR APPLICATION DIR 048/2003

The Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 048/2003 from Hexima Limited. The application requested approval to undertake a limited and controlled release of four types of genetically modified (GM) insecticidal cotton on a maximum of two sites covering a total area of 0.5 hectares in south east Queensland over three summer cotton growing seasons (October 2004 – May 2007).

The decision to issue the licence was made after extensive consultation on the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) with the public, State and Territory governments, Australian Government agencies, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee and the relevant local councils, as required by the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.

Issues relating to the health and safety of people and the protection of the environment raised during the consultation process on this application were considered in finalising the RARMP and in making a decision on whether to issue the licence.

The licence has been issued with specific licence conditions that will ensure effective implementation of the risk management plan. The specific conditions include containment measures, restrictions on the use of the GM cottonseed, research requirements and post-harvest cleaning and monitoring of the trial sites.

The Executive Summary and the complete finalised RARMP, together with the licence conditions, can be obtained on-line from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's website or at the address below.

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