



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

24 August 2005

DECISION ON ISSUING A LICENCE FOR APPLICATION DIR 056/2004

The Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 056/2004 from Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd. The applicant has received approval to undertake a limited and controlled release of genetically modified (GM) herbicide tolerant (LLCotton25) and herbicide tolerant/insect resistant (LLCotton25/Bollgard II[®]) cottons. The large scale trial may take place in up to 19 shires in the cotton growing regions of New South Wales and southern and central Queensland during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 summer growing seasons. In each season the GM cottons may be grown on up to 12 sites covering a maximum area of 500 hectares.

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 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. These are summarised in Chapter 2 and Appendix 9 of the RARMP.

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

The Executive Summary and the complete finalised RARMP, together with the licence conditions, and a set of Questions and Answers can be obtained on-line from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's website or requested via the contacts detailed below.

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