



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

16 February 2006

DECISION ON ISSUING A LICENCE FOR APPLICATION DIR 059/2005

The Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 059/2005 from Monsanto Australia Ltd. The applicant has received approval for the commercial release of genetically modified (GM) herbicide tolerant (Roundup Ready Flex[®]) and herbicide tolerant/insect resistant cotton (Roundup Ready Flex[®]/ Bollgard II[®]) on an unrestricted basis south of latitude 22° South. The licence also permits the use of seed from the GM cotton plants as stockfeed, including in northern Australia where measures to limit spread and persistence of the GMOs have been imposed.

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 the decision to issue the licence.

The Executive Summary, Technical Summary, the complete finalised RARMP, together with the licence conditions, a set of Questions and Answers on this decision and a map of current cotton growing shires 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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