

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON LICENCE DIR 060/2005: LIMITED AND CONTROLLED RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ROSE**

### **What is this licence for?**

Florigene Pty Ltd (Florigene) has obtained approval for a small scale release under limited and controlled conditions of three rose (*Rosa x hybrida*) lines that have each been genetically modified to produce light purple or violet coloured flowers.

### **How have the roses been modified?**

The roses have been genetically modified to alter the synthesis of flower pigments so that a light purple or violet colour is produced. The new genes were derived from other plants including black pansy, torenia, and iris. The GM rose plants also contain an antibiotic resistance marker gene from a common bacterium, which helped identify and select modified plants during their development in the laboratory.

### **Where will the release occur?**

The release will take place at two sites on a maximum total area of 125m<sup>2</sup> in the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Victoria, from March 2006 to April 2008. The first site is an enclosed, 100m<sup>2</sup> insect-proof greenhouse where the plants will be cultivated. The second site is approximately 25m<sup>2</sup> and will be used for shredding and composting plant materials from the trial.

### **Are these the first GM rose field trials in Australia?**

Yes. About 100 plants of each of the three GM rose lines will be grown, along with 100 plants each of the two non-GM parental rose lines and 10 plants each of two other non-GM rose varieties.

### **What is the purpose of the release?**

Florigene intends to evaluate the performance (including productivity, morphology and viability) of the GM rose lines in comparison with parent and other varieties; conduct biochemical analysis of flowers; and generate data for a possible future, larger scale release.

### **What controls have been imposed for this release?**

A range of licence conditions have been imposed to limit the spread and persistence of the GMOs and their introduced genes. In addition to growing the GM plants in an insect-proof greenhouse, other conditions include: restricting the duration of the release to two years; picking flowers before opening to further limit pollen flow; transport and storage of GM rose plant materials in accordance with OGTR guidelines; monitoring the disposal site for regrowth; and destroying any GM rose plant materials produced during the trial that are not required for further research.

Full details of the licence conditions are set out in the final version of the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) that was prepared for this application and formed the basis of the Regulator's decision to issue this licence.

### **Want more information?**

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the OGTR website (<<http://www.ogtr.gov.au>> under 'What's New') or via Freecall 1800 181 030. These documents include the complete RARMP (containing a summary of the submissions received through the consultation process with prescribed experts, agencies and authorities and the public), an Executive Summary, a Technical Summary and the full Licence.