



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

11 October 2006

DECISION ON ISSUING A LICENCE FOR APPLICATION DIR 064/2006

The Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 064/2006 from Monsanto Australia Ltd. The applicant has received approval for the limited and controlled release of up to 24 GM cotton lines with different genes that are expected to enhance water use efficiency. The release involves preliminary (proof of concept) research that may take place over a maximum total area of 20 hectares on up to 10 sites during each of the two summer growing seasons of 2006/07 and 2007/08 in NSW and QLD.

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 the decision to issue the licence.

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