



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

13 February 2007

DECISION ON ISSUING A LICENCE FOR APPLICATION DIR 070/2006

The Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 070/2006 from the BSES Limited. The applicant has received approval for the limited and controlled release of up to 2500 GM sugarcane lines. The sugarcane lines have been modified to alter plant size and shape, or to improve the efficiency of water or nitrogen use, which may in turn result in increased sugar yield. They also contain introduced selectable and/or visual marker genes.

The release may take place at up to 3 sites of no more than 2 ha during each of the 3 cropping cycles between February 2007 to November 2010 (ie a maximum total area of 18 ha) in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Caboolture and/or Cairns in Queensland.

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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