



7 November 2007

### **DECISION ON ISSUING A LICENCE FOR APPLICATION DIR 074/2007**

The Gene Technology Regulator has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 074/2007 from Monsanto Australia Limited. The applicant has received approval for the limited and controlled release of Genetically Modified (GM) *Gossypium barbadense* cotton lines containing introduced genes for insect resistance and/or herbicide tolerance derived from conventional breeding with commercially approved GM *G. hirsutum* cotton lines.

The trial is authorised to take place at up to 13 sites of no more than 2 hectares each (maximum total area of 26 hectares), in up to 13 shires and an unincorporated area in New South Wales and Queensland over a two year period (2007-2009).

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 Water Resources, the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee and the relevant local councils, as required by the *Gene Technology Act 2000* and corresponding State and territory laws.

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, and finalised RARMP, together with the licence 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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