



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

29 August 2008

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

ISSUE OF LICENCE DIR 078/2007 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND FOR A LIMITED AND CONTROLLED RELEASE OF GM SUGARCANE

The Acting Gene Technology Regulator has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 078/2007 from The University of Queensland. The applicant has received approval for the limited and controlled release of up to 3000 sugarcane lines genetically modified for altered sugar production. The release is expected to take place at fifteen sites in the local government areas of Bundaberg, Burdekin, Moreton Bay, Cairns, Hinchinbrook and Mackay, Queensland, on a maximum total area of 65 hectares between September 2008 and December 2014. None of the GM sugarcane will be permitted to be used as human food or animal feed.

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, Heritage and the Arts, 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 complete finalised RARMP, together with a set of Questions and Answers on this decision and a copy of the licence, can be obtained on-line from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's website or requested via the contacts detailed below.

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
MDP 54 GPO Box 9848 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone: 1800 181 030, Facsimile: 02 6271 4202
<http://www.ogtr.gov.au>