



30 June 2008

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

ISSUE OF LICENCE DIR 080/2007 TO THE VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES FOR A LIMITED AND CONTROLLED RELEASE OF GM WHEAT

The Acting Gene Technology Regulator has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 080/2007 from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. The applicant has received approval for the limited and controlled release of up to 50 wheat lines genetically modified for drought tolerance. The release is expected to take place at two sites in the local government areas of Horsham and Mildura, Victoria, on a maximum total area of 0.4 hectares per year between June 2008 and March 2010. None of the GM wheat 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.

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