



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

16 September 2008

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

ISSUE OF LICENCE DIR 081/2007 TO MONSANTO AUSTRALIA LIMITED FOR A LIMITED AND CONTROLLED RELEASE OF GM COTTON

The Acting Gene Technology Regulator has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 081/2007 from Monsanto Australia Limited. The applicant has received approval for the limited and controlled release of up to 504 cotton lines genetically modified for enhanced water use efficiency. The release is expected to take place at up to twenty sites in the local government areas (LGAs) in NSW of Balranald, Bourke, Central Darling, Carathool, Coonamble, Gunnedah, Hay, Lachlan, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Narromine, Walgett, Warren and Lake Tandou (an unincorporated area); the Qld LGAs of Paroo, Balonne, Dalby Regional, Goondiwindi Regional, Toowoomba Regional, Somerset Regional, Brisbane City and Lockyer Valley Regional; and the WA LGA of Wyndham-East Kimberly. The field trials will take place on a maximum total area of 80 ha from 2008-10. None of the GM cotton 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>