



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

12 January 2011

## **NOTIFICATION OF DECISION**

### **Issue of licence DIR 107 to Queensland University of Technology for a limited and controlled release of GM banana**

On 27 October 2010, the Regulator invited submissions on the consultation version of the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) for licence application DIR 107 from Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

The Gene Technology Regulator has now made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 107, authorising the limited and controlled release of up to 151 lines of banana that have been genetically modified (GM) for disease resistance.

The release is authorised to take place at one site in the local government area of Litchfield Municipality, Northern Territory, on a maximum area of 1.5 ha, between the date of issue of the licence and November 2014. None of the GM banana plants are permitted for use in human food or animal feed.

The decision to issue the licence was made after extensive consultation on the RARMP with the public, State and Territory governments, Australian Government agencies, the Minister for the Environment, the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee, and 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 were weighed against the body of current scientific information in reaching the conclusions set out in the finalised RARMP and in making the decision to issue the licence.

The finalised RARMP concludes that this limited and controlled release poses negligible risks to people and the environment. Licence conditions have been imposed to restrict spread and persistence of the GMOs and their genetic material in the environment and to limit the release in size, location and duration, as these were important considerations in the evaluation process.

Appendix A of the RARMP summarises the submissions that were received from prescribed experts, agencies and authorities, and indicates where issues raised relating to risks to human health and safety or the environment were considered in the document. One submission was received from a member of the public, and the issues raised are summarised in Appendix B of the RARMP.

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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