



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

3 August 2011

## **NOTIFICATION OF DECISION**

### **Issue of licence DIR 109 to Queensland University of Technology for a limited and controlled release of GM banana**

On 16 May 2011, the Regulator invited submissions on the consultation version of the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) for licence application DIR 109 from Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

The Gene Technology Regulator has now made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 109, authorising the limited and controlled release of up to 1241 lines of banana that have been genetically modified (GM) for enhanced nutrition.

The release is authorised to take place at one site in the Shire of Johnstone, Queensland, on a maximum area of 2.0 ha, between August 2011 and August 2013. The purpose of the trial is to assess pro-vitamin A and/or iron levels in the GM banana fruit and agronomic performance of GM banana plants under field conditions. The GM bananas will not be permitted to enter the commercial human food or animal feed supply chains.

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 how issues raised relating to risks to human health and safety or the environment were considered in the document. One submission was received from the public on the application and one on the consultation RARMP 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.

**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>**