Australian Government
Department of Health
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

8 October 2015

Issue of licence DIR 134 to International Flower Developments Pty Ltd for the commercial import and distribution of genetically modified carnation cut-flowers

The Gene Technology Regulator has issued a licence to International Flower Developments Pty Ltd in respect of application DIR 134, authorising the commercial import and distribution of three varieties of genetically modified carnation cut-flowers with altered flower colour: Florigene® Moonaqua™, Florigene® Moonberry™ and Florigene® Moonvelvet™.

The GM carnation cut-flowers would be imported, enter the retail chain in the floristry industry and be disposed of in the same way as other GM and non-GM carnations. They may only be sold for ornamental purposes. The licence does not permit growing the GMOs in Australia.

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 the corresponding State and Territory legislation.

Issues relating to the health and safety of people and the protection of the environment raised during the consultation process were considered in the context 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 commercial import and distribution poses negligible risks to people and the environment and does not require specific risk treatment measures. However, general licence conditions have been imposed to ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

Appendices A and B of the RARMP summarise the advice that was received from prescribed experts, agencies and authorities, and indicate how issues raised relating to risks to human health and safety or the environment were considered in the document. Four submissions were received from the public on the consultation RARMP, and the issues raised are summarised in Appendix C of the RARMP.

A Summary and the 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 DIR 134 page of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator's website or requested via the contacts detailed below.

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