

Questions & Answers on licence DIR 173 – Commercial release of genetically modified cotton

What does this licence allow?

The Gene Technology Regulator has issued a licence to Monsanto Australia Pty Ltd that permits cultivation of genetically modified (GM) cotton that has been modified for herbicide tolerance. The GM cotton and its products can enter general commerce, including use in human food or animal feed.

Where will this cotton be grown?

Farmers may grow the GM cotton anywhere in Australia, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. Commercial cotton production occurs mainly in New South Wales, southern and central Queensland, and northern Victoria.

How has the GM cotton been modified?

The GM cotton has been modified to contain two introduced genes from common bacteria that confer tolerance to dicamba and glufosinate herbicides.

Has this GM cotton received any other approvals in Australia?

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is responsible for food safety. FSANZ has approved the use of food derived from this GM cotton.

This GM event, in combination with other insect resistance and herbicide tolerance traits, has been previously approved by the Regulator for commercial release under the licence DIR 145.

What controls have been imposed for this GM cotton?

The licence is for an ongoing commercial release. The Regulator has not imposed any specific measures to manage risk, as the risk assessment concluded that this release of the GM cotton poses negligible risks to the health and safety of people or the environment. However, general conditions have been imposed to ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

Want more information?

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 173](#) page of the OGTR website or via Freecall 1800 181 030. These documents include the finalised Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP), a summary of the RARMP and the licence.

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