



Australian Government
Department of Health
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

**DECISION ON ISSUING A LICENCE FOR APPLICATION DIR 021/2002
FOR COMMERCIAL RELEASE OF BAYER INVIGOR® GM CANOLA**

The Gene Technology Regulator has made a decision to issue a licence in respect of application DIR 021/2002 from Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd.

Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd (formerly Aventis CropScience Pty Ltd) applied to the Gene Technology Regulator in July 2002 for approval to commercially release seven similar types of genetically modified canola.

All of the lines have been previously trialed under limited and controlled conditions in Australia and are approved for commercial release and food use in Canada and the USA and for food use in Australia. Bayer sought approval of all seven types of GM canola to ensure consistency of Australian and overseas approvals. However in Australia, Bayer only intends to commercialise two of the seven GM canola types, as InVigor® hybrid canola seed.

This is the first step in the phased commercial release of InVigor® canola in Australia. Bayer CropScience has indicated that it will continue to work with farmers, industry groups and State and Territory governments to ensure a staged and orderly commercial roll-out of InVigor® canola.

The decision to issue the licence was made after extensive consultation on the risk assessment and risk management plan with the public, State and Territory governments, Federal government agencies, the Federal Environment Minister, the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee and relevant local councils, as required by the *Gene Technology Act*.

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 risk assessment and risk management plan and in making a decision on whether to issue a licence.

Complete and summary versions of the finalised risk assessment and risk management plan and the licence conditions can be obtained from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator on-line or at the address below.

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