

Questions & Answers on licence DIR 175 – commercial release of genetically modified (GM) canola

What does this licence allow?

BASF Australia Ltd has received an approval under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* for commercial cultivation of the genetically modified (GM) canola line MS11. The GM canola contains introduced genes for herbicide tolerance and a hybrid breeding system. The GM canola is intended for use as a parental line for breeding and seed multiplication.

The GM canola and its products would enter general commerce, including use in human food and animal feed.

How has the GM canola been modified?

The GM canola contains three introduced genes derived from common bacteria. Two genes confer male sterility and fertility restoration, which form a hybrid breeding system. The third gene confers tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate. This enables the GM canola plants to grow in the presence of this herbicide, which can be used to control weeds in the GM canola crop.

Where will this GM canola be grown?

The GM canola is allowed to be grown in all canola growing areas in Australia, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. Commercial canola production occurs mainly in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, with sporadic plantings in Queensland and Tasmania. Currently, the commercial cultivation of GM canola is prohibited by State law in Tasmania and parts of South Australia.

Has this GM canola 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 canola.

What controls have been imposed for this GM canola?

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 GM canola poses negligible risk to the health and safety of people or the environment. 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 175](#) 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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