

## Questions & Answers on an initiative to place dealings with GM canola on the GMO Register - Register-003

### What is the GMO Register?

Activities – known as dealings - with genetically modified organisms (GMOs) may be included on the GMO Register under certain circumstances. They must be (or have been) authorised under a GMO licence, and the Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) must be satisfied that any risks posed by the dealings are minimal and that they can be safely undertaken by anyone without the need for a licence.

### What is this initiative about?

The Regulator has initiated the process to consider including dealings with the genetically modified (GM) canola line MON-00073-7 on the GMO Register. The dealings with MON-00073-7 canola have been authorised for commercial release under the licence for DIR 020/2002 since 2003. The dealings proposed are the same as those approved under the DIR 020/2002 licence. They include the same sorts of activities undertaken with non-GM canola, such as conducting experiments, breeding, growing, importing, and transporting. If approved for the GMO Register, the GM canola would be commercially produced throughout Australia without the need for a licence.

### How has the GM canola been modified?

The MON-00073-7 canola, also known as Roundup Ready® canola, GT73 (RT73) canola and oilseed rape GT73, contains two introduced genes derived from common soil bacteria. The genes confer tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate, and therefore farmers can use this herbicide to kill weeds without damaging their GM canola crop.

### Have there been any adverse effects from the commercial release of this GM canola?

MON-00073-7 canola has a history of safe use in Australia since the dealings were licensed for commercial release under DIR 020/2002 in 2003 and cultivation began in 2008. No adverse effects have been reported by the licence holder through their reporting requirements for DIR 020/2002, or by other people in Australia. The GM canola has also been authorised for cultivation, or for import, processing and use as human food and animal feed, in many other countries for over two decades. No adverse effects from the GM canola have been reported in those countries.

### Have the risks associated with the dealings with the GM canola been assessed?

In considering whether to place the dealings with MON-00073-7 canola on the GMO Register, the Regulator has obtained information by reviewing the most recent scientific literature, including risk assessments from other regulatory bodies internationally and accessing plant/weed databases. This information was used to prepare the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP – consultation version) for this initiative.

### Who is being consulted?

The Regulator is now seeking advice from the public, from the Gene Technology Technical Advice Committee and from relevant Australian government agencies, state and territory governments, local government councils and appropriate experts on any risks to human health and safety or the environment that may be posed by the dealings with the GM canola.

### How can I comment on this application?

The consultation RARMP for Register-003 is available on the [OGTR website](#) under 'News' or via the contacts listed below. Written comments (including by email) are invited on the consultation version of the RARMP, related to any risks to the health and safety of people or to the environment from the proposed inclusion of dealings on the GMO Register. Comments must be received by the close of the consultation period on **31 March 2022**.

### What are the next steps in the evaluation process?

The RARMP will be finalised, taking into account submissions related to the health and safety of people or the environment. A de-identified summary of all comments received and consideration of those comments is

included in the Appendices to the final RARMP. The finalised RARMP will inform the Regulator's decision on whether or not to include the dealings on the GMO Register.

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