

## Questions & Answers on licence application DIR 191 – commercial release of genetically modified chrysanthemum

### What is this application for?

International Flower Developments is seeking approval for commercial import and distribution of five types of genetically modified (GM) chrysanthemum. If a licence is issued, cut flowers of GM chrysanthemum would be imported into Australia and sold to the public through florists and supermarkets, in the same way as non-GM flowers are imported and sold. The GM chrysanthemums would not be used in commercial human food or animal feed.

### How have the GM chrysanthemums been modified?

The GM chrysanthemums are genetically modified to have blue or violet flower colour. The two introduced genes that alter flower colour come from the plants Canterbury bells and butterfly pea. The GM chrysanthemums also contain an introduced antibiotic resistance marker gene that was used to select modified plants during initial development of the GM chrysanthemums in the laboratory.

### Have the GM chrysanthemums been previously released?

The GM chrysanthemums have not been previously released in Australia. They are currently commercially grown in Colombia and there have been trial imports of cut flowers into North America.

### What is the process for considering this application?

The licence application will be subject to comprehensive, science-based risk analysis. The process includes two rounds of stakeholder consultation. In the first round, the Regulator will seek advice from prescribed experts, agencies and authorities prior to preparing a draft Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP). The RARMP focuses on identifying risks to people and to the environment that may be posed by the commercial release. Following public release of the draft RARMP, submissions will again be sought from stakeholders, this time including the public. The RARMP will then be finalised, taking into account submissions received, and will inform the Regulator's decision whether or not to issue a licence.

### How can I comment on this application?

The comprehensive RARMP for this application is expected to be released for public comment in **September 2022**. Its release will be advertised in newspapers, and it will be available on the OGTR website along with a range of supporting information. While comment is not being sought from the public at this stage, you can obtain a copy of the full application by contacting the OGTR. Please quote the application number DIR 191. A summary of the application is available on the [OGTR website](#) under 'DIR 191' or by contacting the OGTR.