

Questions & Answers on licence DIR 188 – field trial of genetically modified (GM) canola and Indian mustard

What does this licence allow?

This licence allows Nuseed Pty Ltd to grow GM canola and Indian mustard modified for altered oil content and herbicide tolerance. In each year there may be up to ten trial sites of 10 ha and ten trial sites of 5 ha, with a maximum planting area of 150 ha per year. The GM canola and Indian mustard may be grown from November 2022 to January 2028.

Where will this canola and Indian mustard be grown?

The sites will be chosen from 96 local government areas (LGAs) in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

How have the GM canola and Indian mustard been modified?

The GM canola and Indian mustard contain up to seven introduced genes for altered oil content. The genes come from yeast and marine microalgae. The genes enable the GM plants to produce omega-3 long-chain fatty acids in their seed oil. Omega-3 long-chain fatty acids are considered to have health benefits for humans.

The GM canola and Indian mustard also contain an introduced gene from soil bacteria for tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate.

What is the purpose of the trial?

The trial is to assess the performance of the GM canola and Indian mustard under field conditions. The GM plants grown in this field trial would not be used in commercial human food or animal feed.

What controls are imposed for this release?

The Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) prepared for this application concluded that the field trial poses negligible risks to people or the environment. However, as this is a field trial under limited and controlled conditions, Nuseed Pty Ltd must comply with a range of licence conditions that restrict when and where the trial can take place, limit the size of the trial, and minimise GM canola and Indian mustard from spreading outside the trial sites. For example, there are conditions to isolate trial sites from sexually compatible crops, to securely transport and store the GMOs, and to inspect the sites at the end of the trial to check that the GM plants are destroyed. Full details of these control measures are in the licence.

Want more information?

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 188](#) 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.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

OGTR Website

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