



Summary of Licence Application DIR 204

Trigall Australia Pty Ltd has made an application under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (the Act) for Dealings involving the Intentional Release (DIR) of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the Australian environment.

Project Title	Limited and controlled release of wheat genetically modified for increased tolerance to environmental stress
Parent organism	Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)
Genetic modifications	
Introduced genes and modified traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HaHB4</i> gene from <i>Helianthus annuus</i> conferring environmental stress tolerance • <i>bar</i> gene from <i>Streptomyces hygrosopicus</i> as a selectable marker gene conferring glufosinate herbicide tolerance
Genetic modification method	Biolistic transformation
Unique identifier of GMO	IND-ØØ412-7
Trade name of GMO	HB4 wheat
Principal purpose	To gather research and regulatory data for HB4 wheat under Australian growing conditions, including under environmental stress
Previous releases	HB4 wheat is approved for commercial cultivation in Argentina and Brazil
Proposed limits	
Proposed use of GM plants	No use in human food or animal feed proposed
Proposed locations	Up to 10 sites per year in wheat growing areas of New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia
Proposed release size	Up to 20 hectares per year in total
Proposed period of release	From issue of licence until December 2029

Proposed Controls include measures to:

- restrict access to the trial sites by people and animals
- limit outcrossing to non-GM plants through the use of monitoring, inspection and isolation zones
- ensure GM seeds and plant material are contained during transport and storage in accordance with the Regulator’s guidelines
- ensure that GM plants do not remain after harvest through regular inspection of the trial sites and destruction of any GM plants found before flowering.

Consideration as a limited and controlled release (field trial)

This application is considered to be a limited and controlled release application under section 50A of the Act, as the Regulator was satisfied that:

- its principal purpose is to enable the applicant to conduct experiments; and
- the applicant has proposed limits and controls that are of a kind that the Regulator is not required to consult before preparing the consultation version of the RARMP.

Next steps

The gene technology legislation sets out what the Regulator must do, as well as what the Regulator can or must consider, before deciding whether or not to issue a licence for this application.

The Regulator's staff will prepare a consultation version of the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) considering aspects of the application including the proposed limits and controls in accordance with the legislation.

The Regulator will seek comment on the consultation RARMP from the public, as well as a wide range of experts, agencies and authorities. The public and experts will be invited to provide submissions on the risks to human health and safety and on risks to the environment from the proposed release.

At this stage, the consultation RARMP is expected to be released for comment in **early June 2024**.

After consultation, the Regulator's staff will finalise the RARMP, taking into account advice on relevant matters. The finalised RARMP will form the basis of the Regulator's decision whether or not to issue a licence. The consultation and final versions of the RARMP and associated documents will be available on the [OGTR website](#) when they are released.

Other information available from the [OGTR website](#):

- documents on genetic modification methods and selectable marker genes
- information on Australia's national scheme for regulation of gene technology and
- information on the DIR application process.

Please use the contact details below if you:

- would like a copy of the application. Please include the identifier DIR 204.
- have any questions about the application or the legislated evaluation process or
- wish to register on the mailing list.

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