



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

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Fire Ant baits are not GMOs

Confusion about a statement on the National Fire Ant Eradication Program website on 25 August 2025 has led people to believe that the eradication program has released Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into the environment without approval of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR).

The baits do not contain GMOs. The ingredients in the baits are not live and viable, so they do not require approval by the OGTR for use in Australia.

The OGTR regulates live and viable GMOs, for example living GM plants or viable GM seeds (i.e. GM seeds that can grow into a GM plant). The *Gene Technology Act 2000* requires OGTR to approve the import and use of live and viable GMOs in Australia.

Further information about the National Fire Ant Eradication Program is available from the [National Fire Ant Eradication Program website](#).

Further information about registration of pesticides in Australia is available from the [APVMA website](#).
