

Questions & Answers on licence application DIR 226 –

Commercial release of canola genetically modified for herbicide tolerance

What is this application for?

Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia Pty Ltd is seeking approval from the Gene Technology Regulator for the commercial release of a genetically modified (GM) canola. The purpose of the application is to allow cultivation of the GM canola Australia-wide. The GM canola and its products would enter general commerce, including use in human food and animal feed.

How has the GM canola been modified?

The GM canola has been conventionally bred from previously approved GM canola lines and have the combined introduced genes and traits from those parents. The GM parental lines have been authorised for commercial release under licences DIR 021/2002 and DIR 139/2016.

The GM canola contain introduced genes that confers tolerance to herbicides containing glyphosate and glufosinate. Thus, farmers can use two herbicides to kill weeds without damaging their crop. The GM canola also contains a gene that restores fertility in male sterile canola which was introduced in initial development of one of the parental lines. However, the fertility gene is not utilised in the proposed GM canola as it is fertile.

Could the GM canola also be sold as food?

The GM canola can only be sold as food for human consumption if this is authorised by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). FSANZ has assessed and approved the use of food derived from the parental GM canola lines. These approvals also cover the GM canola proposed under DIR 226, as it is derived from the approved parental lines through conventional breeding.

Where will this GM canola be grown?

The GM canola is intended to be grown in all canola growing areas in Australia, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. Commercial canola production occurs mainly in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, with sporadic plantings in Queensland and Tasmania. Currently, the commercial cultivation of GM canola is prohibited by State law in Tasmania and parts of South Australia.

What is the process for considering this application?

Scientists at the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR), which is a specialised Australian government agency, will prepare a detailed risk analysis for the licence application. The analysis will consider whether there are any potential risks to human health and safety or the environment from the proposed release of GM wheat. The OGTR will consult with a wide range of experts and the public prior to finalising the risk analysis.

When can I comment on this application?

Public consultation is expected to start in **December 2026**.

We will notify subscribers to [OGTR News](#) of the consultation and advertise it in newspapers and on our [website](#). The consultation will be open for written submissions for about 2 months.

Where can I find more information?

For a summary of this licence application, please search for **DIR 226** on our [website](#). We will provide more detailed information for this application when we start the public consultation.

You can also request a copy of the licence application from the OGTR using the contact details below. Please quote our identifier **DIR 226** in any communications with us about this application.