



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

Receipt of licence application from The University of Melbourne for commercial release of genetically modified wheat

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) has received a licence application (DIR 227) from The University of Melbourne. The application is for commercial release of genetically modified (GM) wheat which was modified by inserting a gene from rice. The GM wheat is intended to produce grain with increased levels of bioavailable iron and zinc.

The University of Melbourne is seeking approval to commercially grow the GM wheat Australia-wide, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. The primary intended use of the GM wheat is as animal feed, but it may also enter human food.

The OGTR is preparing a Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan for the application. The RARMP will be prepared taking into account advice received from a broad range of experts, agencies and authorities, and relevant local councils, as specified in the *Gene Technology Act 2000*. This is expected to be released for public comment and advice from experts, agencies and authorities in **early December 2026**. There will be about 2 months for submission of comments.

A summary of the application and a Questions and Answers document are posted on our [website](#) (search for DIR 227). If you have any further questions or would like to receive a copy of the application, please contact the OGTR and quote the reference number DIR 227.

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