

Questions & Answers on licence application DIR 228 – commercial release of genetically modified cotton

What is this application for?

Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd (Bayer) is seeking approval for the commercial release of cotton genetically modified for insect resistance.

How has the GM cotton been modified?

The GM cotton proposed for release contains an inserted gene from a common soil bacteria that confers insect resistance to common pests of cotton including bugs and thrips.

What is the purpose of the release?

The purpose of the proposed release is to allow commercial production of this GM cotton Australia-wide, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. The GM cotton and its products would enter general commerce including use in human food and animal feed.

What other regulatory processes apply to this commercial product?

Food Standards Australia New Zealand has approved the use in food of material derived from this GM cotton, including food made from any crop produced through conventional breeding. No further food approvals are required. The GM cotton would also be subject to regulation by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) if importing any GM seed into Australia.

What is the process for considering this application?

The licence application will be subject to comprehensive, science-based risk analysis. The process includes two rounds of stakeholder consultation. In the first round, the Regulator will seek advice from prescribed experts, agencies and authorities prior to preparing a draft Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP). The RARMP focuses on identifying risks to people and to the environment that may be posed by the commercial release. Following public release of the draft RARMP, submissions will again be sought from stakeholders, this time including the public. The RARMP will then be finalised taking into account submissions received, and inform the Regulator's decision whether or not to issue a licence.

How can I comment on this application?

The comprehensive RARMP for this application is expected to be released for public comment in **December 2026**. Its release will be advertised in newspapers, and it will be available on the OGTR website along with a range of supporting information. While comment is not being sought from the public at this stage, you can obtain a copy of the full application by contacting the OGTR. Please quote the application number DIR 228. A summary of the application is available on the [OGTR website](#) or by contacting the OGTR.