

## Questions & Answers on licence DIR 138 – Commercial release of genetically modified canola

### What does this licence allow?

The Gene Technology Regulator has issued a licence to Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd (Bayer) that permits commercial cultivation of canola known as InVigor® x TruFlex™ Roundup Ready® canola. This canola is genetically modified (GM) with a hybrid breeding system and tolerance to two herbicides, glyphosate and glufosinate. The GM canola and its products can enter general commerce, including use in human food or animal feed.

### What other regulatory approvals are required?

Food Standards Australia New Zealand has approved the use of material derived from the GM canola as food. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority are responsible for assessing an application to use herbicides on the GM canola.

### Where will this canola be grown?

Farmers may grow the GM canola anywhere in Australia, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. Currently, the states of Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland permit commercial cultivation of GM canola licensed by the Regulator, but the other canola growing states of South Australia and Tasmania prohibit GM canola crops. Further information can be obtained from the relevant State or Territory.

### How has the GM canola been modified?

This GM canola was conventionally bred from two types of GM canola that were previously approved for commercial release in Australia. It is a cross between InVigor® canola authorised under licence DIR 021/2002 and TruFlex™ Roundup Ready® canola authorised under licence DIR 127. It contains a total of six different introduced genes, all of which were derived from common bacteria.

Three of the introduced genes confer herbicide tolerance to two different herbicides, so that farmers can use these herbicides to kill weeds without damaging their crop. Two of the introduced genes allow different types of parent canola to be crossed to make hybrid GM plants with desired properties, preventing the parent canola plants self-fertilising. One of the introduced genes confers antibiotic resistance. This was used during laboratory development of the GM canola and does not have any function when plants are grown in the field.

### What controls have been imposed for this GMO?

The licence is for an ongoing commercial release. The Regulator has not imposed any specific measures to manage risk, as the risk assessment concluded that this release of GM canola poses negligible risks to the health and safety of people or to the environment. However, the Regulator has imposed general licence conditions to ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

### Want more information?

Several documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 138 page](#) of the OGTR website. These documents include the finalised Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP), a summary of the RARMP and the licence.