

Quarterly activities report for April – June 2020

The quarterly activities include details of monitoring and compliance activities by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) during the quarter. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions the monitoring and compliance activities for this quarter were conducted in a desktop capacity.

Monitoring of GMO Dealings involving Intentional Release (DIR)

During the quarter the OGTR desktop inspected **one GM plant field trial site (Table 1)**. The inspection comprised:

- Current field trial sites- of the **seven** sites current in the quarter, **one** was inspected. The site was in Queensland and was selected for a routine desktop inspection.
- Post-harvest field trial sites- of the **35** sites subject to post-harvest monitoring in the quarter, **none** were inspected.

Table 1 – Summary of inspection activities of GM crop field trials for the April – June 2020 quarter.

Licence holder	Licence Number	GM Crop	Site location (crop status ¹)
Queensland University of Technology	DIR 166	Chickpea	Qld (1C)

¹ C = current site

Monitoring of GMO Dealings Not involving Intentional Release (DNIR), certified facilities and DIR clinical trials

During the quarter OGTR inspected **two** organisations holding certified facilities (**Table 2**) and **one** undertaking a DNIR licence (**Table 3**).

Table 2 – Summary of organisations and facility types that the OGTR inspected for the April – June 2020 quarter.

Organisation	Physical Containment (PC) level	Number of facilities monitored
BTF Pty Ltd	PC2 Laboratory	1
AgriGen Biotech P/L	PC2 Laboratory	1
Total		2

Table 3 – Summary of inspection activities for DNIR and DIR licences for the April – June 2020 quarter.

Licence holder	Licence number
Clinical Network Services Pty Ltd	DNIR 604

Practice Reviews, Audits and Investigations

The Monitoring and Compliance section may initiate practice reviews in response to observations made during earlier monitoring activities, or to follow up incident reports. The objective is to determine if licence conditions can be, and are being, effectively implemented.

During the April- June 2020 quarter the OGTR continued its program of practice reviews, undertaking meetings with:

- Theravir Pty Ltd (DNIR-602 - clinical trial with a herpes simplex virus GMO) as part of the practice review into the *Preparedness of Theravir Pty Ltd and PPD Australia Pty Ltd to undertake licensed dealings not involving intentional release*.
- The Australian National University and CSIRO, as part of the practice review into *Management of Extreme Weather Events*.
- Total Livestock Genetics Pty Ltd as part of the practice review into *PC2 Large Grazing Animal facility containment*.

No investigations and audits were undertaken during the quarter.

Other activities

Monitoring and Compliance staff were actively engaged with organisations to provide advice regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Monitoring and Compliance Findings

Findings from routine monitoring, auditing and investigations, and related enforcement activities, are provided in the Regulator's Annual Report in accordance with section 136 of the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.