

Quarterly activities report for January – March 2020

The quarterly activities include details of monitoring and compliance activities by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) during the quarter.

Monitoring of GMO Dealings involving Intentional Release (DIR)

During the quarter the OGTR inspected **four GM plant field trial sites** (Table 1). The inspections comprised:

- Current field trial sites – Of the **11** sites current in the quarter, **one** was inspected. The site was in Queensland and was selected for routine announced inspection as it had not been previously inspected.
- Post-harvest field trial sites – Of the **39** sites subject to post-harvest monitoring in the quarter, **three** were inspected. The sites were in Queensland and were selected for routine announced inspections. The sites had been previously inspected.

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

Licence holder	Licence Number	GM Crop	Site location (crop status ¹)
University of Queensland	DIR 153	Sorghum	Qld (1C, 3PH)

¹ C = current site, PH = post-harvest site.

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

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

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

Organisation	Physical Containment (PC) level	Number of facilities monitored
Austin Health	PC2 Laboratory	5
CSIRO ²	PC3 Animal	1
	PC4 Facility	2
Defence Science and Technology Group ²	PC3 Laboratory	1
Total		9

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

Licence holder	Licence number
Bioproperties Pty Ltd	DIR 154

² Facilities were subject to joint inspections with the Contained Dealings Evaluation Section for re-certification

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 January – March 2020 quarter the OGTR did not undertake any Practice Reviews.

Auditing was conducted at CSIRO in Victoria and the findings will be reported in the Regulator's Annual Report. No investigations were undertaken during the quarter.

Other activities

Monitoring and Compliance staff took no additional activities but was 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, will be provided in the Regulator's Annual Report in accordance with section 136 of the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.