



13 October 2020

Summary of Licence Application DIR 175

BASF Australia Ltd (BASF) has made an application under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (the Act) for Dealings involving the Intentional Release (DIR) of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the Australian environment.

Project Title	Commercial release of canola (<i>Brassica napus</i>) genetically modified for herbicide tolerance and a hybrid breeding system (MS11) ¹
Parent organism	Canola (<i>Brassica napus</i>)
Genetic modifications	
Introduced genes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>barnase</i> gene from <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> for male sterility• <i>barstar</i> gene from <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> for fertility restoration• <i>bar</i> gene from <i>Streptomyces hygroscopicus</i> for glufosinate tolerance
Genetic modification method	<i>Agrobacterium</i> -mediated transformation
Principal purpose	Commercial release as a parent line for canola production
Previous releases	MS11 canola has been previously approved for field trials in Australia ² MS11 canola has also been approved for commercial cultivation in the United States and Canada.
Proposed locations	Australia-wide
Proposed period of release	From issue of licence

Next steps

The Gene Technology legislation sets out what the Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) must do, as well as what the Regulator can or must consider, before deciding whether or not to issue a licence for this application.

After consultation with the prescribed experts, agencies and authorities, the Regulator's staff will prepare a consultation version of the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) considering aspects of the application in accordance with the legislation.

The Regulator will seek comment on the consultation RARMP from the public, as well as a wide range of experts, agencies and authorities. The public and experts will be invited to provide submissions on the risks to human health and safety, and on risks to the environment from the proposed release.

At this stage, the consultation RARMP is expected to be released for comment in **December 2020**.

After consultation, the Regulator's staff will finalise the RARMP, taking into account advice on relevant matters. The finalised RARMP will form the basis of the Regulator's decision whether or not to issue a

¹ The title of the application submitted by BASF is "Commercial release of canola (*Brassica napus*) genetically modified for herbicide tolerance and a hybrid breeding system".

² Details regarding previous approvals have been declared as Confidential Commercial Information (CCI) under section 185 of the Act. This information will be made available to the prescribed experts and agencies that will be consulted on this application. CCI is not available to the public.

licence. The consultation and final versions of the RARMP and associated documents will be available on the [OGTR website](#) when they are released.

Other information available from the [OGTR website](#):

- 'Questions and Answers' document for this application
- a document on genetic modification methods
- information on Australia's national scheme for regulation of gene technology and
- information on the DIR application process.

Please use the contact details below, if you

- would like a copy of the application. Please include the identifier DIR 175.
- have any questions about the application or the legislated evaluation process or
- wish to register on the mailing list.

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