



February 2021

## Summary of Licence Application DIR 178

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.

<b>Project Title</b>	Commercial release of canola genetically modified for herbicide tolerance and a hybrid breeding system (MS11 × RF3 and MS11 × RF3 × MON 88302) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Parent organism</b>	Canola ( <i>Brassica napus</i> L.)
<b>Genetic modifications</b>	
<b>Introduced genes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>barnase</i> gene from <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> for male sterility</li><li>• <i>barstar</i> gene from <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> for fertility restoration</li><li>• <i>bar</i> gene from <i>Streptomyces hygroscopicus</i> for glufosinate tolerance</li><li>• <i>cp4 epsps</i> gene from <i>Agrobacterium</i> sp. strain CP4 for glyphosate tolerance</li></ul>
<b>Genetic modification method</b>	Conventional breeding of parental GM canola lines MS11, RF3 and MON 88302, all of which were generated by <i>Agrobacterium</i> -mediated transformation
<b>Principal purpose</b>	Commercial release for canola production
<b>Previous releases</b>	MS11 and MS11 × RF3 have been previously approved for field trials in Australia. MS11 is the subject of BASF's commercial release application DIR 175 currently under evaluation. RF3 has been authorised for commercial release under the licence DIR 021/2002. MON 88302 (also known as TruFlex™ Roundup Ready® canola) has been authorised for commercial release under licence DIR 127. Both MS11 × RF3 and MS11 × RF3 × MON 88302 have been approved for cultivation in Canada.
<b>Proposed locations</b>	Australia-wide
<b>Proposed period of release</b>	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.

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<sup>1</sup> The title of the application submitted by BASF is "Commercial release of MS11 × RF3 *B. napus* and MS11 × RF3 × MON 88302 *B. napus* in the Australia cropping system, genetically modified for herbicide tolerance and a hybrid breeding system".

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 **June 2021**.

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 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 178.
- have any questions about the application or the legislated evaluation process or
- wish to register on the mailing list.

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