

## **Questions & Answers on licence DIR 127 – Commercial release of genetically modified (GM) canola**

### **What does this licence allow?**

Monsanto Australia Ltd has received approval for the commercial release of MON 88302 canola (also known as TruFlex™ Roundup Ready® canola) genetically modified for herbicide tolerance.

The GM canola and its products can enter general commerce, including use in human food and animal feed. Food Standards Australia New Zealand has approved the use in food of material derived from this canola. In addition, cultivation of this canola must comply with conditions imposed by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, including an approved herbicide resistance management plan.

### **Where will this canola be grown?**

The GM canola may be grown anywhere in Australia, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. Currently, the commercial cultivation of GM canola licensed by the Regulator is permitted in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland, but prohibited in the other canola growing states of South Australia and Tasmania.

It is important to note that these requirements do not relate to the protection of human health or the environment, and are a matter for State and Territory governments and industry, not the Regulator. Further information should be obtained from the relevant State or Territory.

### **How has the GM canola been modified?**

The GM canola contains an introduced gene derived from a common soil bacterium that confers tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate. This enables glyphosate to be used to control weeds in the GM canola crop.

### **How is this GM canola different from existing commercial GM canola?**

Another GM canola, MON 00073-7 or Roundup Ready® canola, was approved by the Regulator in 2003, and has been grown commercially in New South Wales and Victoria since 2008 and in Western Australia since 2010. In the 2013 season, GM Roundup Ready® canola constituted about 10% of the Australian canola crop. Both MON 88302 canola and Roundup Ready® canola are tolerant to herbicides containing glyphosate, but MON 88302 canola can tolerate higher rates of glyphosate and has a wider window for herbicide application. The licence holder advises that this is intended to allow optimisation of herbicide applications to suit environmental and weed growth conditions, providing improved weed control, not to increase the number of herbicide applications.

### **What controls have been imposed for this GM canola?**

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 the environment. However, general conditions have been imposed to ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

### **Want more information?**

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 127 page](#) of the OGTR website or via Freecall 1800 181 030. These documents include the finalised RARMP, a summary of the RARMP and the licence.

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