

## Quarterly activities report for October – December 2024

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 OGTR did not inspect any GM plant field trial sites.

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

During the quarter OGTR inspected **six** organisations holding certified facilities (**Table 1**) and **two** undertaking GMO dealings authorised by DNIR licences (**Table 2**).

Table 1 – Summary of organisations and facility types that the OGTR inspected for the October – December 2024 quarter.

Organisation	Physical Containment (PC) level	Number of facilities monitored
CSIRO	PC2 Laboratory	3
	PC2 Animal Facility	1
	PC4 Facility	4
Queensland University of Technology	PC2 Laboratory	18
	PC2 Plant	1
Australian National University	PC2 Animal	2
	PC2 Invertebrate	1
	PC2 Plant	1
	PC2 Laboratory	8
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health	PC2 Laboratory	3
	PC3 Facility	1
The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health	PC2 Animal	1
Eurofins Agrosience Services Pty Ltd	PC2 Plant	2
	PC2 Laboratory	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>

Table 2 – Summary of inspection activities for DNIR licences for the October – December 2024 quarter.

Licence holder	Licence number
Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd	DNIR-669
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health	DNIR-307

### 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 October – December 2024 quarter the OGTR continued its program of practice reviews, undertaking meetings with:

- The University of Melbourne (DNIR-686) - *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies with feline alphaherpesvirus-1 derived immunocontraceptives, as part of the practice review into the ‘*Preparedness of accredited organisations to undertake licenced dealings not involving intentional release*’.

During the October – December 2024 quarter the OGTR continued an audit of Monash University in Victoria.

Audit findings will be reported in the Gene Technology Regulator’s Annual Report once the respective audit has been completed.

Audits of seed breeding companies were conducted in Queensland reviewing their quality assurance processes as part of the OGTR Low Level Presence Strategy. These audits of the industry are ongoing and will be reported in the Annual Report.

During the October – December 2024 quarter the OGTR did not commence any investigations.

### Other Activities

- Monitoring and compliance representatives attended the Association of Biosafety for Australia and New Zealand (ABSANZ) conference. The purpose of ABSANZ is to protect people, the community and the environment through advancing knowledge in biosafety and biorisk management.
- Monitoring and compliance representatives attended the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators network (AELERT) conference. AELERT is an internationally recognised professional network for regulators across Australasia. AELERT is supported and hosted by the Australian Commonwealth Government.

### **Monitoring and Compliance Findings**

Findings from routine monitoring, auditing, 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*.