Quarterly activities report for October – December 2017

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 inspected **15 GM plant field trial sites** (**Table 1**). The inspections comprised:

- Current field trial sites – Of the **40** sites current in the quarter, **seven** were inspected. As these seven sites in the ACT and WA had never been visited before by OGTR they were selected for routine announced inspections to assess compliance with licence conditions.
- Post-harvest field trial sites – Of the 5**6** sites subject to post-harvest monitoring in the quarter, **eight** were inspected. Two sites in Katanning, WA were selected for routine announced inspections due to the fact that they had not been previously inspected. A further four sites in WA were selected for routine announced inspections due to their proximity to sites already selected for inspection. The remaining two sites in the ACT were selected for routine unannounced inspections to assess compliance with licence conditions.

Table 1 – Summary of inspection activities of GM crop field trials for the Oct – Dec 2017 quarter.

Licence holder	Licence Number	GM Crop	Site location (crop status[1])
CSIRO	DIR 111	Wheat and Barley	ACT (3P)[2]
	DIR 151	Wheat and Barley	ACT (2C)[2]
The University of Adelaide	DIR 128	Wheat and Barley	Katanning (2C, 2P) Merredin (3C, 3P)

[1]C = current site, P = post-harvest site

[2]Two members of the Department's Graduate Development Programme also attended these inspections as observers.

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 2**) and **three** undertaking DNIR licences (**Table 3**).

Table 2 – Summary of organisations and facility types that the OGTR inspected for the Oct – Dec 2017 quarter.

Organisation	Physical Containment (PC) level	Number of facilities monitored
Animal Resources Centre	PC2 Animal Facility	5
	PC2 Laboratory	1

Organisation	Physical Containment (PC) level	Number of facilities monitored
Bioproperties Pty Ltd	PC2 Large Scale Facility	2
Griffith University	PC2 Laboratory	2
	PC3 Laboratory	1
Ozgene Pty Ltd	PC2 Laboratory	1
	PC1 Facility	2
The University of Queensland	PC2 Laboratory	2
University of Technology Sydney	PC2 Laboratory	1
Total		**17**

Table 3 – Summary of inspection activities for DNIR licences and DIR clinical trial licences for the Oct – Dec 2017 quarter.

Licence holder	Licence number
Griffith University	DNIR-463
	DNIR-509
The University of Queensland	DNIR-160
	DNIR-414
University of Technology Sydney	DNIR-364
	DNIR-432

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.

Two Practice Reviews were conducted during the October – December 2017 quarter covering GMO Transport and Disposal practices in Western Australia. These reviews will be reported in the annual report.

Other activities

Monitoring and Compliance staff also undertook visits:

- in relation to the Licence for Inadvertent Dealings (GM petunias with altered flower colour); and
- to Daniels Health waste disposal facilities in NSW in order to view their medical waste disposal processes.

Monitoring and Compliance staff also engaged in continuing professional education and stakeholder engagement activities at the Association of Biosafety for Australia and New Zealand Annual Conference held in the Gold Coast from 31 October to 2 November 2017 and the Australasian Society for Immunology 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting held in Brisbane from 27 November to 1 December 2017.

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*.