



Public participation in assessing gene technology



Whether you are a member of the public or a community organisation, the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (the OGTR) invites your involvement.

The best way to stay informed is to subscribe to [OGTR news](#). We also notify the community of decisions via our website, the Government Notices Gazette, and newspapers.

When the OGTR receives an application to release a GMO into the environment, we let people know via our website and we also alert everybody who has subscribed to OGTR news (see below for how to subscribe).

We rigorously assess each application for risk to human health and safety and the environment—this involves writing a risk assessment and risk management plan (RARMP).

We let the public know when the draft RARMP is ready for comment by advertising through the Government Notices Gazette, newspapers and the OGTR website.

RARMPs are open to submission of comments for a minimum of 30 days. Experts, stakeholders and any member of the community can provide their comments. All of these comments are taken into consideration before we make a decision about the release of a GMO into the environment.

We are committed to making applications for licences and the subsequent risk assessments available to anyone who wants to see them. Risk assessments plus summary information prepared by the OGTR for all proposed environmental releases, is available on the OGTR website. Application documents are made available upon request.

We also occasionally ask for public comment on other matters such as proposed changes to the Regulator's guidelines and policy documents, and reviews of the legislation. These calls for comment are always communicated to everyone who has subscribed to [OGTR news](#).

Related factsheets:
 What is gene technology?

Further reading:

Genetically modified organisms in Australia

Genetically modified (GM) crops in Australia

How are genetically modified organisms (GMOs) regulated in Australia?

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