



Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation

Our Ref: CTS 04047-25

24 March 2025

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2025 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 4199-25 concerning the 'proposed introduction of genetically modified mosquito species responsible for spreading dengue'.

There is currently an application from Oxitec Australia being processed by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) – a Commonwealth Government entity.

In Australia, genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, are regulated through a nationally consistent scheme comprising the Commonwealth *Gene Technology Act 2000*, Gene Technology Regulations 2001, and corresponding State laws.

Under the Act, all applications for release of a GMO require public consultation prior to the Gene Technology Regulator deciding whether to issue a licence. The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator is currently preparing a risk assessment and risk management plan for the genetically modified mosquito application which will consider scientific studies provided by the applicant, published literature and advice from prescribed agencies. The risk assessment and risk management plan will be released for consultation, seeking public and technical comment, which will be considered as part of the Gene Technology Regulator's decision.

A summary of the application and a Questions and Answers document are available from the OGTR website at <https://www.ogtr.gov.au> and the full application is available on request to the OGTR via email to ogtr@health.gov.au.

It is important to remember that there are many additional safeguards in place and other regulators that consider the proposed release of GMOs in Australia. Although the application remains with the Commonwealth-run OGTR, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, will continue to closely monitor its status.

The Regulator will consult with the public on the Oxitec application, and I encourage members of the public and the House to refer to their website for further information.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
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