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IC37190L

**Title:** New Caledonia: Wheat imports from Australia: Request to stop genetically modified testing on wheat grown in Australia: DAFF response

**MRN:** IC37190L 12/09/2011 04:12:38 PM

**To:** Noumea

**Cc:** RR : Pacific Posts, Paris EMB

**From:** Canberra (CHCH/DAFF)

**From File:**

**References:** NM552366L  
The cable has the following attachment/s -  
Talking Points GMO - 12 Sept 2011 - cleared by DFAT.doc

**Response:** Routine, Requires Action

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**Summary**

Further to reftel (NM552366L), the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has provided information about Australia's exports of wheat to New Caledonia, information about genetically modified (GM) wheat in Australia as well as the certification processes for genetically modified crops in Australia. To date, there have not/not been any commercial releases of GM wheat in Australia, nor has there been any application for commercial release submitted to the Gene Technology Regulator. Talking points that may assist with consultations are attached. Grateful if post would advise DAFF of any outcomes from discussions. DFAT was consulted in the preparation of this cable.

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text ends

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**Prepared by:** Rachel Riethmuller  
**Approved by:** Paula Svarcas  
**Topics:** TRADE/Market Access, TRADE/Policy General

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**Canberra distribution**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



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## Talking Points: Australian wheat exports to New Caledonia

### *GM wheat in Australia*

- To date, there has been no commercial release of GM wheat in Australia, nor has there been any application for commercial release submitted to the regulator.
- GM wheat is not grown in Australia for commercial purposes.
  - However, there are GM wheat field trials running in Australia, managed and regulated by one of the most rigorous frameworks in the world.
    - Since 2005, the regulator has approved eleven small GM wheat field trials, each limited in size and duration.
  - GM wheat from these trials is not permitted to enter the commercial human or animal food supply.
- The development and use of genetically modified organisms in Australia is regulated through an integrated framework that includes the *Gene Technology Act 2000* and corresponding state and territory legislation.
  - The *Gene Technology Act 2000*, administered by the Gene Technology Regulator ([www.ogtr.gov.au](http://www.ogtr.gov.au)), underpins the national scheme for regulating genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and has as its focus the protection of human health and the environment.
  - Economic and marketing considerations such as coexistence and segregation in agricultural supply chains are addressed through state-specific requirements or industry protocols.
- Further information on Australian GM wheat trials, including the comprehensive Risk Assessments and Risk Management Plans, the location of each field trial and applications under consideration can be found on the Office of Gene Technology Regulation website at [www.ogtr.gov.au](http://www.ogtr.gov.au). The regulator conducts a rigorous science-based risk assessment and extensive public and expert consultation for each trial they approve.

### *Australia's wheat exports to New Caledonia*

- Based on data from ABARES's Australian Wheat Supply and Monthly, Australia exported 26.3kt of wheat to New Caledonia in the 2009 calendar year, and 50.9kt in the 2010 calendar year.

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