



Consultation paper

Food derived using new breeding techniques

Submission

The NSW Food Authority (Food Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the consultation paper prepared by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) on food derived using new breeding technologies (NBT).

The Food Authority understands that two separate comprehensive review and reform process are currently being conducted by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and the Commonwealth Department of Health on several matters concerning gene technology, including considering the regulatory state of NBT's covered in the consultation paper (i.e. Technical Review of the Gene Technology Regulations 2001).

The Food Authority considers it important to ensure clarity and consistency around the consideration of what constitutes gene technology in Australia and therefore proposes that specific consideration of what technologies when applied to food require pre-market safety assessment according to Standard 1.5.2 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) be delayed until the OGTR and the Commonwealth Department of Health gene technology review processes have concluded.

After the finalisation of these reform processes, it may become necessary for FSANZ to re-consider fundamental terms in the gene technology definition in the Code such as 'recombinant DNA' and 'heritable' to ensure that matters considered 'gene technology' by OGTR receive appropriate pre-market scrutiny.

ENDS

The views expressed in this submission may or may not accord with those of other NSW Government agencies. The NSW Food Authority has a policy which encourages the full range of NSW agency views to be submitted during the standards development stages before final assessment. Other relevant NSW Government agencies are aware of and agree with this policy.