

From: standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au
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To: standards management
Subject: FSANZ: Applications and Submissions - Submission [SEC=INCONFIDENCE]



FSANZ: Applications and Submissions - Submission

Sunday, 20 November, 2011

- 1. Assessment Report Number:** A1063
- 2. Assessment Report Title:** Food derived from herbicide-tolerant soybean Mon87708
- 3. Organisation Name:** Timothea Pratt
- 4. Organisation Type:** Individual
- 5. Representing:** Community members
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- 12. Submission Text:** I am concerned that the safety analysis of the submission to allow MON87708 has only considered food safety and nutritional issues, not the variety of other aspects that are placed at risk by allowing a modified substance into the Australian environment. Further, the principle purpose of allowing such a crop must, almost by definition, be to increase the amount of herbicides in use in the production of food. Even if one is willing to accept that the MON87708 has no negative side effects, I do not believe it is safe to make the same assumption about the herbicide(s) that will be used in great volumes during the production of this crop. Further who has completed or sponsored the studies that you have used to assess the safety of MON87708? Is the owner of the crop? Because this would render those results suspect... I also do not believe that it is appropriate that most of the products that will contain this crop will not be labelled. I do not believe this is fair to the Australian populace. It hinders their ability to make informed decisions about what they are feeding their children and themselves. Additionally, the long term effects of GM on humans as a whole has not been adequately investigated. Whilst any given product may not be harmful, I believe that it should be investigated what the cumulative effects are of long term ingestion of multiple GM sourced foods are before any more are permitted in Australia. Whilst MON87708 is not intended to be produced in Australia in the short term, I believe that allowing any access to the crop in any way would expedite this in the longer term and I do not believe that would be a wise choice for Australia (or New Zealand, for that matter). The anticipated benefits of a change to current policy and regulations do not appear to be seriously significant, certainly in the short term.

The government concerns also appear to be theoretical rather than definite. I, therefore, submit that there should be NO CHANGE TO CURRENT REGULATION AND POLICY AND THAT MON87708 AND ITS PRODUCTS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN AUSTRALIA.

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