

## **Application A1196 – Food derived from nematode-protected and herbicide-tolerant soybean line GMB151**

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### **Comments from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.**

#### **Due date of submission – 9 June 2020**

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the departments) welcome the opportunity to respond to this application to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

Application A1196 – Food derived from nematode-protected and herbicide-tolerant soybean line GMB151 seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from the soybean line GMB151 that has been genetically modified (GM) to provide tolerance to p-hydroxyphenyl pyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD)-inhibitor herbicides such as isoxaflutole.

From the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Assessment report it is understood that:

- The purpose of this application is to enable food ingredients derived from nematode-protected and herbicide-tolerant soybean line GMB151 to be utilised in foods and food products for sale in Australia and New Zealand.
- Food derived from GMB151 is proposed to enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply imported as soybean oil and soybean meal products. Soybean meal can be used in the manufacture of many food products including soymilk, breakfast cereals, bakery products, sausage casings and imitation dairy and meat products.
- For highly refined products derived from the soybean line, such as soybean oil, novel protein or DNA would not be present in the final product and such products would not require GM labelling. However, it is understood that any products that do contain the novel protein or DNA, such as soybean meal, would be subject to GM labelling requirements under the Code, enabling consumers to make informed choices.
- Commercial cultivation of GMB151 is likely to occur predominantly in North America and Canada. There is currently no intention by the applicant to seek approval to grow this GM soybean variety in Australia or New Zealand.
- FSANZ approval is required to ensure that foods derived from soybean line GMB151, and products containing these foods as ingredients, may legally be imported, sold and used in Australia and New Zealand.

On the basis that no toxicity, allergenicity, or nutrient composition concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment, the departments support the progression of the Application A1196.