



5th November 2012

Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Submission- Application A1068- Irradiation of Tomatoes and Capsicums

Dear FSANZ,

In recent years the APVMA has been reviewing chemicals (notably dimethoate and fenthion) used for market access domestically and internationally. Due to this many industry bodies both locally and state wide have been investing in research into alternatives to current practices. One such research project was to confirm the possibility of using irradiation as an option for market access, a practice currently accepted for market access for mangoes.

The suspension of dimethoate and now fenthion as of the 31st of October 2012 means that the pressure to find a viable alternative is ever increasing. These suspensions will significantly affect the Bowen Gumlu region and its ability to supply fresh vegetables domestically and internationally. The Bowen Gumlu area is Australia's largest winter growing region and is worth an estimated \$400 million dollars annually.

Over the years Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) has established itself as a respected peak industry body that is known for its collaborative approach to managing key issues and priorities for the industry not just at a local level but state-wide and nationally. BGGA has contributed to many research projects including the irradiation research which has shown to be a safe, non-chemical, non-residual alternative.

BGGA believes irradiation can support market access domestically and internationally and would like to provide a letter of support for Application A1069 – Irradiation of Tomatoes & Capsicums to FSANZ to amend the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include tomatoes and capsicums.

Yours Sincerely,

Carl Walker
President