



3rd October, 2014

SUBMISSION :

Reference: **APPLICATION A1092 : Irradiation of Specific Fruits and Vegetables**
Application to FSANZ to amend the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include apples; apricots; cherries; honeydew melons; nectarines; peaches; plums; rockmelons; scallopini, strawberries; table grapes & zucchini (courgette).

We are writing to you to advise that on behalf of Australian Low Chill Stone Fruit Growers, we fully support the application submitted by Qld DAFF, for the amendment of the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include apples; apricots; cherries; honeydew melons; nectarines; peaches; plums; rockmelons, scallopini, strawberries; table grapes & zucchini (courgette), on the approvals list for the use of irradiation as a pest disinfection treatment for a phytosanitary purpose.

Low-Chill Australia Inc, is the national peak industry body representing the interests of low-chill stone fruit producers and its supply chain service providers. LCA members are spread throughout the supply chain e.g., growers, agents, marketers, packing houses, breeders and service providers, and are situated in NSW, QLD, WA and Vic.

In recent years the number of low chill growers has reduced significantly. Whilst there are varied reasons for their exit the major reason or "tipping point" for many growers has been the uncertainty caused by APVMA's decisions and processes on Fenthion. Unlike the high chill growers of Victoria and South Australia most low chill orchards are in endemic fruit fly areas of Northern NSW and Queensland. Therefore having an effective, reliable and sustainable tool to manage fruit fly is critical to the economic future of this industry.

We support the above application as we believe these approvals will allow all producers, exporters and supply chain operatives enhanced access to Australian domestic markets under the ICA-55 protocol, as well as export markets, and that Irradiation provides a much needed efficacious and sustainable post – harvest disinfection option.

Yours sincerely



Mark Napper
President
Low Chill Australia Inc

**PO Box 25
Bangalow NSW 2479**