

AS WELL AS AGREEING WITH THE FOLLOWING, I AM STRONGLY AGAINST HAVING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD OR ANY OTHER G.M. SUBSTANCE FOIST UPON US, AND ESPECIALLY WITHOUT OUR BEING ABLE TO KNOW.....HOW CAN YOU EXPECT A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY TO SELF-ASSESS WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO MAKE MONEY FROM? WE KNOW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT THESE COMPANIES CARE NOTHING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF ANYBODY...THEY ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH PROFIT. I DO NOT WANT TO EAT ANYTHING GENETICALLY MODIFIED, NOR DO I WANT MY FAMILY TO, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS A HIDDEN THING. AS WELL AS ALL MY PERSONAL CONCERNS, PLEASE TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION RE TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, THE PROBLEMS OF UNKNOWN CHANGES TO PEOPLES' MAKEUP, THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE ANIMALS AND THE PERHAPS DESTRUCTION OF THE GOODNESS OF THE PLANTS WE ALREADY HAVE. I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO WANTS TO EAT G.M. FOOD.

I therefore strongly oppose changes to the Food Code that would allow a wide range of GM foods, made using novel methods that have scant history of safe use, to be sold without safety assessment or labelling. These would include meat and milk from some genetically modified animals and substances like vanilla and stevia produced by genetically modified microbes in factory vats. These changes would undermine FSANZ's key responsibilities to ensure food safety and our right to know what is in our food.

Gene editing techniques have been found to make genetic changes that could never occur in nature and to result in widespread genetic damage that often goes undetected by GM developers.

The proposed changes would make Australia one of very few countries in the world to allow genetically modified animal products into our food chain with no regulation or labelling. This would put us at odds with our international trading partners, which FSANZ admits “may have a significant impact on trade”. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, an international agreement signed by 166 governments worldwide, and the UN’s food standards body Codex Alimentarius agree that all GM techniques differ from conventional breeding and that pre-market safety assessments are essential before GM organisms are used in food.

I support expanding the definition for 'gene technology' so FSANZ continues to assess and regulate all techniques and methods of genetic modification, other than conventional breeding. The proposal to deregulate new and emerging GM techniques and their food products, which pose new and unassessed risks, is completely unacceptable.

Thank you for taking my well-founded and informed concerns into consideration.

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