

Project Officer Application A1257
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 10559
The Terrace
Wellington 6036

17 January 2024

Tēnā koe,

A1257 – Australian native bee honey

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) supports amending the Food Standards Code to include a definition for Australian native honey and a new standard to permit its sale and use. We note that under New Zealand's Biosecurity Act, animal and plant products cannot be imported into New Zealand, unless an import health standard (IHS) has been developed for that product. At present, there is no import health standard to allow importation of honey from Australia.

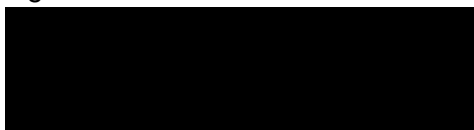
NZFS agrees with FSANZ's safety and risk assessment that risks to vulnerable people including those with allergies and infants (due to botulinum spores) are comparable to those from the consumption of honey produced by European honeybees. We support the labelling with honey as a prescribed name to adequately inform those at risk from honey, and requiring further wording to make it clear that the product is "native honey".

We note that the standard does not cover native honeys or honey from stingless bees from other parts of the world. We suggest that this is made clear in the name of Standard 2.8.3, to read *Australian native bee*.

As a minor point in the drafting relating to no added sugars in Schedule 4-3, it could be tidier to insert *native bee honey* after *honey* instead of after malt extracts.

Nāku noa, nā

signed



New Zealand Food Safety