



22nd of September 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).

The Bowen Gumlu region is the largest winter vegetable growing region in Australia, valued at \$450 million dollars annually and sending produce to both domestic and export markets.

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) is the representative body for horticulture in the region, providing a collaborative approach to managing key issues and priorities, not just at a local level but state-wide and nationally. BGGA provides support to members in a range of areas, of which includes market access.

BGGA support the application submitted by Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 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 disinfestation treatment for a phytosanitary purpose.

BGGA 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 an additional market access opportunity as a post-harvest disinfestation option.

Yours Sincerely,



Carl Walker
President