

[REDACTED]

From: submissions
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Submission - A1193: Irradiation as aphytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 11:47 PM
To: submissions <submissions@foodstandards.gov.au>
Subject: Submission - A1193: Irradiation as aphytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Dear Decision Makers at FSANZ,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email – it is much appreciated.

I am deeply concerned by the prospect of more of our fruit and vegetables being irradiated, and ask that FSANZ not give the go-ahead to the irradiation of all of our fruit and vegetables.

Sadly, with the never-ending invention of clever, profit-making technologies, we have not learned the lessons of the past, and have moved too far away from nature, to the detriment of human and environmental health. Rachel Carson, in her ground-breaking book, *Silent spring*, published in the 1960's, reported, in particular, with regard to the use of chemicals, that interfering with nature can have dire impacts on our planet's species.

And now, in 2020, we humans, being just one of our planet's vulnerable species (never more evident than this year, with the coronavirus pandemic) are facing, if FSANZ gives the go-ahead, the permanent continuation of another nature-interfering technology – food irradiation. Have we learned nothing in the past 60-odd years?

The long-term consequences for humans, and the planet, of irradiating our fruit and vegetables are not known, and what we have seen in the short-term is alarming. Enough is enough.

For me, the bottom line is: I do not want to eat irradiated fruit and vegetables, nor do I want my children and grandchildren, already facing the prospect of living on a planet that is severely compromised because of the impacts of global warming, to be exposed to eating such man-manipulated foods. FSANZ should withhold their approval of irradiation until long-term, generational, peer-reviewed research into the health consequences of irradiation has been completed.

And, do you really want your own children and grandchildren to eat irradiated food? Is it worth the risk?

The coronavirus has taught us this year that putting the health of the community first, is the right thing to do. I say this in the context of the considerable, distracting lobbying that must go on, of the FSANZ, and other such bodies,

when companies want to ensure long-term approval of a product, in this case, food irradiation. Their primary concern is not necessarily the health of the community, but the improvement of their bottom line.

A focus on food irradiation is, in the grand scheme of things, a risky and time-consuming distraction from the huge, and urgent task we face of preserving this planet for future generations.

Please use every fibre of your courage and integrity to make the right decision here - do not allow further irradiation of our food crops to go ahead. Instead, focus on pooling your resources to tackle our greatest physical, social justice and moral challenge – the prevention of further global warming.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read this email – it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]