

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 11:55 AM
To: submissions
Subject: re Food Irradiation proposal

Categories: [REDACTED]

To Whom it may concern,

As both a fresh food consumer and also a primary contact health care provider, I strongly reject the FSANZ proposal to irradiate fresh foods produced in Australia. My reasons are as follows:

1. I do not believe that there have been enough longitudinal, independent and comprehensively peer-reviewed studies on the safety of this process for human consumers. There are extremely disturbing reports of adverse effects of irradiated cat food that was withdrawn from sale after it was proven to be responsible for the deaths of a large number of Australian pets.

2. The cumulative effect of consumption of an assortment of these foods has not been studied.

3. Irradiation is known to affect nutrient levels in the foods that are treated in this manner and only single nutrient loss has been briefly studied rather than the synergistic effect of these losses on the health and wellbeing of the consumer.

4. Labelling of irradiated foods is completely inadequate and would allow the distribution of these nutrient-deficit and questionably unsafe products to be passed on to Australian consumers without their ability to selectively avoid such products if they so choose.

5. It is currently not possible to broadly test which foods have and have not been irradiated so we, the consumers in the marketplace will not be able to accurately and safely avoid irradiated foods and will have to rely upon what has already been shown to be a corrupted marketing system by the big food chains. The difficulty in identifying GMO foods in the marketplace is a clear indication of this.

6. It appears that the primary orientation of FSANZ is to protect the billion dollar Australian food export and production industry and not the health and wellbeing of the consumers both here and overseas.

7. FSANZ is ignoring the fact that there are a variety of alternatives to irradiation that do not have negative health and safety effects.

8. FSANZ has not investigated the Australian public's resistance to irradiation of their fresh produce and is attempting to force this upon us as consumers without broadly publishing facts such as:

- there are other options to dealing with fruit flies
- the safety and effects on nutritional integrity of fresh produce has not been properly and fully scientifically investigated
- there are no actual benefits of irradiating fresh foods to the end consumers yet an extensive list of concerns that are not being considered

I respectfully and urgently request that FSANZ cease all moves to push for the irradiation of our fresh produce for any reason.

Kind regards,

