

Comments from the Victorian Departments of Health & Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources

Due date of submission – 28 October 2015

The Victorian Departments of Health & Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1114 (the Application).

The Application seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from corn line MON87403 that has been genetically modified (GM) to have increased ear biomass at an early reproductive phase compared with conventional corn.

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- MON87403 is a dent corn which is mostly processed into products such as corn syrup, corn starch and corn oil. These highly refined products are unlikely to contain any novel protein or DNA, and so would not require GM labelling. However, any products that do contain the novel protein or DNA, such as corn meal and grits, would be subject to the GM labelling requirements under the Food Standards Code, enabling consumers to make informed choices.
- Commercial cultivation of MON87403 is likely to occur predominantly in North America. There is currently no intention by the applicant to seek approval to grow this GM corn variety in Australia or New Zealand.
- Food derived from MON87403 has been approved in the US. Applications for approval in a number of other countries are currently under assessment.
- FSANZ approval is required to ensure that foods derived from corn line MON87403, and products containing these foods as ingredients, may legally be imported, sold and used in Australia and New Zealand.

It is further understood that no toxicity, allergenicity, or nutrient composition concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment of this Application. Approval of this Application will allow broader market access and increased choice of raw materials. Moreover, if MON87403 was detected in food imports, approval would ensure compliance with the Code and prevent any trade disruption on regulatory grounds. For these reasons, the departments support the progression of Application A1114.
