

Application 1274
Food derived from disease-resistant banana line QCAV-4
NSW Submission

General Procedure – the 1st call for submissions (CFS)

NSW Food Authority appreciates the opportunity to comment on Application 1274 (A1274) – Food derived from disease-resistant banana line QCAV-4. The submission does not represent a NSW Government position, which will be a matter for the NSW Government should notification be made by the FSANZ Board to the Food Ministers' Meeting.

NSW Food Authority supports the proposed amendment of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to permit the sale and use of food derived from banana line QCAV-4. NSW Food Authority notes FSANZ's assessment identified no potential public health and safety concerns with banana line QCAV-4.

As FSANZ clarified in CFS page 7, food derived from banana line QCAV-4, such as fresh banana including its peel, dried or frozen banana and banana pulp, would contain novel DNA or novel protein and would require labelling as 'genetically modified'. It is important to ensure consumers are provided with information about GM food to make informed choices in accordance with section 1.5.2–4.

NSW Food Authority supports the proposed consequential amendment of the Code as proposed by FSANZ concerning application of the GM information requirement on packaged whole fruit and vegetables where the package does not obscure the quality or content of the food. This provides a level playing field for consumer information requirement concerning GM foods as the requirement already applies to unpackaged food (Standard 1.2.1-9(3)(b)).

ENDS

The views expressed in this submission may or may not accord with those of other NSW Government agencies. The NSW Food Authority has a policy which encourages the full range of NSW agency views to be submitted during the standards development stages before final assessment. Other relevant NSW Government agencies are aware of and agree with this policy.

Dated as 6 November 2023