

BFID Committee Highlights

The Binational Food Industry Dialogue (BFID) met on 26 March, chaired by FSANZ CEO Dr Sandra Cuthbert. The BFID provides a forum for two-way engagement and information sharing between FSANZ and food industry representatives from Australia and New Zealand.

BFID held its 12th meeting, and first for 2026, to discuss current and emerging issues across the Australian and New Zealand food industry.

Updates

Members received a comprehensive update on [FSANZ's current work](#), including the potential mandating of the [Health Star Rating system](#) and the review of commercial foods for infants and young children.

FSANZ also outlined the staged approach under the [2030 FSANZ Roadmap](#), with initial work commencing on young child formula, HSR, the evaluation framework and digital labelling.

Members further received updates from the Implementation Subcommittee on Food Regulation, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, including an update on NZMPI's [digital food labelling trial](#) and [consultation](#).

Members discussed concerns regarding the ongoing fuel crisis and its potential impacts on supply chain stability, including pressures on packaging, ingredients and logistics. In response to their concerns, FSANZ convened the Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation (ISFR) Incident Response Working Group to bring together regulators to discuss a [coordinated food regulation system response](#).

Discussion

The Therapeutic Goods Administration presented on the food–medicine interface (FMI), outlining its [compliance principles](#) and [enforcement protocols](#). The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority provided an overview of its role in regulating agricultural and veterinary chemicals to protect people, animals and the environment, and advised it would provide further updates as legislation progresses.

Members also received an update from the National Health and Medical Research Council on its review of the [Australian Dietary Guidelines](#), including the scope, phases and timeframes, with targeted and public consultation planned for later this year. Members welcomed the breadth of the review and discussed opportunities for collaboration with industry.

A robust discussion, led by the Australian Food and Grocery Council explored ultra-processed foods. Members considered the evolving definition, highlighting the complexity of the issue, including health impacts, consumer behaviour, affordability and broader food system impacts, while emphasising the importance of establishing a clear definition.

Next meeting

In other business, the [FSANZ Board Communiqué](#) and an update on the [FSANZ Stakeholder Forum](#) were provided. The Forum will be held in Brisbane on Wednesday, 17 June, with tickets now on sale. The next BFID meeting will be held on Thursday, 20 August 2026.