

12 June 2026
298-26

Administrative Assessment Report – Application A1353

Plant sterols as a novel food in yoghurt, cheese and processed cheese

1. Application details

Date received: 15 April 2026		
Date due for completion of administrative assessment: 7 May 2026		
Date completed: 8 May 2026		
Applicant: Bega Cheese Limited		Potentially affected standards and schedule: Standard 2.5.3 – Fermented milk products Standard 2.5.4 – Cheese Schedule 25 – Permitted novel foods
Brief description of application: To amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to change the permissions and associated conditions to add phytosterols, phytostanols and their esters as a novel food to yoghurt, cheese and processed cheese.		
Procedure: General Level 4	Maximum total variable hours: 520 Reasons why: Requires a toxicological, nutritional, food technology and dietary modelling assessment of greater than average complexity and requires an assessment of risk management measures of greater than average complexity.	Estimated start date for assessment: early June 2026

2. Decision

Application accepted
Decision Date: 8 May 2026
ECCB payment date: 9 June 2026

3. Consultation & assessment timeframe

Proposed length of public consultation: 6 weeks	
Proposed timeframe for assessment	
Notification due:	16 June 2026
Commence assessment (clock start)	early June 2026
Public comment	late Oct–early Dec 2026
Board to consider approval	early March 2027
Notification to Food Ministers' Meeting (FMM)	mid March 2027
Anticipated gazettal if no review requested	end May 2027