

BFID13 Committee Highlights

The Binational Food Industry Dialogue (BFID) met on 20 August, chaired by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (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 13th meeting to discuss current and emerging issues across the Australian and New Zealand food regulation system.

The Chair welcomed new members and acknowledged the valuable contributions of departing representatives from CropLife, Food and Beverage Importers Association and Australian Retail Council.

Updates

Members received updates from FSANZ, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries and the Implementation Subcommittee for Food Regulation. Discussions covered compliance and border control activities and broader food regulation initiatives.

FSANZ provided updates on current and upcoming activities, including progress on the Digital Food Labelling Program encompassing both food labelling and e-commerce initiatives. Discussions focused on upcoming consultations, acknowledging the importance of clear consultation timeframes and keeping stakeholders informed of consultation outcomes.

Industry members shared updates on key industry developments, including [non-alcoholic beverage consumption trends](#) and [sugar reduction](#), [Freshcare's Food Safety & Quality Standard](#) and factors shaping the New Zealand food sector, including the biosecurity risks posed by [bird flu](#).

Discussion

Members were briefed on the forthcoming [National Food Security Strategy](#), being developed by DAFF to enhance the productivity, resilience and security of Australia's food system.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics presented findings from the 2023 [National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey](#). The data provided insights from more than 11,000 Australians on dietary intake, food security and health behaviours.

Collectively, these discussions highlighted challenges and opportunities across the food system, including food affordability, nutrition, food safety and the need for contemporary data to understand changing consumer behaviours and dietary patterns.

Other business

In other business, members discussed recent media coverage of the food regulation system and received an update on outcomes from [FSANZ's recent Board meeting](#). Members also identified topics of interest for future meeting agendas.

The next BFID meeting is scheduled for 12 November and will be the committee's final meeting for the year.