

submissions

From: Chris Ayres [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 5 November 2012 2:38 PM
To: submissions
Subject: Irradiation of Food

I object absolutely to any attempt to irradiate tomatoes and capsicums. This was an issue the 'Peanut Premier' of Queensland tried to get introduced some 30 years ago and failed dismally simply because the science clearly proved the harm and danger to health such an action would cause. Nothing has changed, apart from simple man-made disasters that irradiated food at Chernobyl and again at Fukushima. Simply look at the efforts the Japanese have made to destroy accidentally irradiated foodstuffs where the radiation levels were similar to or less than the so-called 'tiny doses' Queensland once again proposes.

Even small amounts of radiation used on vegetables accumulate in the body. The result is that young people, babies and children will be subject to risk of cancers and other radiation-induced illnesses.

Here are some of my concerns about irradiated tomatoes and capsicums:

- Irradiation has been shown to deplete vitamin C, vitamin A, proteins, essential fatty acids and other nutrients in food.
- Irradiation produces free radicals in food and has been linked to health problems such as nutritional deficiencies, immune system disorders, and genetic damage.
- In 2008 and 2009 one hundred Australian cats developed neurological disorders leading to paralysis, some died, because of the consumption of irradiated cat food. The public outcry led to the banning of irradiated cat food in Australia. At the time of this writing, in 2012, irradiated pet food is being investigated as the potential cause of death and illness in dogs, suggesting that the problem may not be species specific as previously claimed. The risk to humans cannot be ruled out.
- I am not confident that it will be labelled. Labelling of irradiated foods in Australia and New Zealand is also under threat. The government has proposed a review of mandatory labelling with the aim of removing labelling requirements. All irradiated food should be individually labelled "treated with radiation" or "irradiated -- "

I call on you to reject A1069 as it is not in the public interest: neither the health and safety of irradiating tomatoes and capsicums nor the assurance the consumers will have through labelling has been demonstrated and these cannot be guaranteed.

But by all means let those who propose the use of radiation eat irradiated food. If it kills them, then so much the better since the IQ level in Queensland will rise and the danger posed by the Queensland government decline as their members of parliament die!

If they wish to irradiate Queensland foodstuffs, it must be clearly marked as such. When their farmers have gone bankrupt, they will have no-one to blame but themselves.

Chris Ayres

