



17th October 2012

Project Manager Application A1070
Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Re: Unilever Australia Submission in response to Application A107- Packaging Size for Phytosterol-enriched lower fat cheese

Dear Project Manager

Unilever welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the FSANZ assessment of application A1070 - *Packaging Size for Phytosterol-enriched lower fat cheese*.

As an interested stakeholder over the past 12 years, we have actively participated in regulatory developments for phytosterol, and the more recently defined plant sterol, products in Australia and New Zealand. **We support the FSANZ proposed recommended regulatory outcome.**

FSANZ recommends the removal of the weight restriction for phytosterol-enriched cheese and processed cheese (containing no more than 12g of fat per 100g). FSANZ has referred to the risk assessment used to assess the volume restriction for phytosterol enriched milk (Application A1065) due the comparable applications. The risk assessment for A1065 was based on:

- *Lack of evidence of public health or safety issues arising from the consumption of phytosterols;*
- *The market research information provided in the Application indicating that consumers may be disadvantaged by a restricted range of package sizes;*
- *Consistency with the risk management approach in the EU and USA;*
- *The availability of other risk management measures.*

The Approval Report for A1065 was completed in July 2012, which Unilever also supported.

Unilever supports the FSANZ proposed regulatory outcome to remove the portion weight restriction for phytosterol-enriched cheese and cheese products based on the current scientific evidence confirming the safety of phytosterols added to food, consumer purchasing and consuming behaviour and the international regulatory approaches to phytosterol-enriched cheese and cheese products.

Unilever notes the strong scientific basis of the FSANZ risk assessment in relation to A1065 and the balanced approach in reviewing the totality of evidence for these much-studied substances and was pleased that the same rationale was used for A1070. Should FSANZ be interested in further information relevant to this assessment or plant sterol products in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Pearson
Assistant Regulatory Manager
Unilever Australasia