

Comments from the Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Due date of submission – 10 February 2015

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1097.

Application A1097 seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from corn line MON87411 which has been genetically modified (GM) to provide tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate and protect against corn rootworm pest, in particular western corn rootworm.

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- Corn line MON87411 has been created to offer growers broader crop choices and increased pest control durability.
- This corn line will not be offered for commercial use as a stand-alone crop variety, but will be combined, through traditional breeding, with other approved GM corn lines.
- The major foods derived from this corn line are highly refined products such as corn syrup and cornstarch. These products are unlikely to contain any novel protein or DNA so would not require GM labelling. However, if products are manufactured that do contain the novel protein or DNA, labelling provisions under the Food Standards Code will apply and will provide information to consumers and allow them to make informed decisions.
- Commercial cultivation of this corn line is likely to occur predominantly in North America. Approval for cultivation in Australia of this GM corn variety is not being sought from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.
- FSANZ approval ensures that if the GM corn was detected in imported food products, there would be no potential for trade disruption on regulatory grounds.
- To assist the enforcement of any labelling or testing of this novel DNA, the applicant has submitted sufficient data to ensure there is the capability to develop a test method.

The Departments acknowledge that no toxicity, allergenicity, or nutrient composition concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment of this Application.

On this basis, the Departments support the progression of Application A1097.