

24.12.20

Dear Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ),

My name is [REDACTED], I am a resident of [REDACTED] Australia, and a mother within a family unit of 5. Within our family we have a food sensitive child, which greatly impacts upon our food choices as we seek to ensure their gut health is protected. To the best of our ability we seek out and purchase fresh local produce, and as much as we are able we support organically, regeneratively, and biodynamically grown produce.

I am prompted to write this letter in relation to the proposal put forth to by Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD DAF) to extend the permission to irradiate 26 fruits and vegetables to all fruits and vegetables.

Firstly, I will clearly state I am against this proposal and, as a member of the public, and a likely purchaser of the resulting produce I do not support this proposed change in permissions, nor does any of the 5 members of our household.

A quote from your executive summary “Radiolytic compounds generated through food irradiation are not produced at levels that are likely to result in harm” – your language here of “likely” does not give me confidence and leaves room for risk to the public without consequence to yourselves and that is not a risk I am willing to take with ingestible produce. Current health paradigms, and scientific investigations are vastly recognising the link that gut health has to mental and indeed physical health for humans, so although immediately tangible adverse effect is not usually seen, how can you confidently say across time, in a cumulative way, there may not be any impact in areas such as cancers, digestive disorders, mental health, and organ functionality. You cannot, and will never be able to definitively have a position on this thought and it is because of this I plead that you hold off on extending the permissions to further irradiate food beyond that which already receives treatment.

I know I am a lay person with regard to the science, but I speak as a mother who is a careful purchaser of what is the least compromised foods available to assist my young family to maintain excellent health and wellbeing.

Good luck with deliberating on the final decision.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]