

[REDACTED]

From: submissions
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Submission, A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables"

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 December 2020 11:03 AM
To: submissions <submissions@foodstandards.gov.au>
[REDACTED]
Subject: Submission, A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables"

Dear Decision Maker(s),

Your plan to irradiate all fruit and vegetables is extremely ill considered and poses no benefit to the public. It does not reduce pests, food borne illnesses or increase the nutritional content of the produce, and would mean that Queenslanders will not have access to fresh fruit and vegetables, as irradiation would make these processed foods.

A quick search on Google Scholar, if you bothered to do the slightest amount of research before agreeing to this harebrained scheme, would tell you that there are many papers written on the dangers of processed food, and that the key to good health is home cooked meals prepared with fresh fruit and vegetables. This should be common knowledge to someone who is in charge of making decisions that would affect the health of millions of people and it is extremely concerning that your desire to approve this is clearly not motivated by health.

Irradiation depletes the vitamin and mineral content in fruit and vegetables, thereby making our food less nutritious. People would have to eat more food to obtain the same level of nutrients, meaning that our society will become even more overweight and obese than what we already are. Moreover, it changes the structure of the produce on a molecular level, producing free radicals which are part of the pathogenesis of multiple illnesses - asthma, IBD, autoimmune diseases, hepatitis, ulcerative colitis and some cancers, just to name a few. Irradiating all produce is a great way to make millions of people more susceptible to chronic illnesses and burden the economy. Food Standards Australia and New Zealand say that the irradiation would result in the same level of nutrient depletion as the cooking process, but why on earth should people accept this if they need to cook the produce at home anyway, resulting in even greater nutrient depletion? If people wanted pre-cooked food, they wouldn't be going to the effort of making healthy home cooked meals from scratch.

People have a right to make positive choices for their health, and forcing people to eat processed food depleted of nutrients even before cooking is nothing short of evil. This decision is only made with shelf life in mind and if you actually valued the lives of the people you represent, you would never even consider

this scheme. If you make this compulsory, you will scare off many overseas tourists whose food regulations are a lot more stringent than ours, such as people from the EU (who are already scared of our food by the way), as well as visitors from other states in Australia. I for one will choose other destinations who take health seriously and do not force me into eating poor quality food by default.

If you are concerned about food waste, one easy solution that people have been partaking in for hundreds of years is to turn fruit and vegetable waste into compost. Compost is extremely useful in improving soil fertility and can be used in environmental rehabilitation, suburban gardens and given back to farmers for their use. One other solution is to rely less on imported crops and invest in local Australian farmers, so that food does not have to travel so far and therefore doesn't need as long a shelf life. Moreover, you would be investing in local Australian business and helping our economy rebuild after the pandemic.

You should never be making decisions which are detrimental to our health. Please throw this poorly-considered irradiation plan in the bin where it belongs and implement solutions which actually benefit your citizens.

Regards

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[REDACTED]

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