

Project Officer Application P1057
Food Standards Australia New Zealand
PO Box 10559
The Terrace
Wellington 6036

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Tēnā koe,

Application P1057 – Urgent proposal Review of the kava standard

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) has the following comments to make:

NZFS acknowledges the desire to provide clarity in the Food Standards Code as that aids stakeholders to meet the relevant requirements. The request for FSANZ to undertake the review of the kava standard under urgency resulted in a time pressured process late last year. Kava users in New Zealand raised concerns that the process did not provide time for adequate consideration of kava use and practices, particularly in the New Zealand cultural context.

We recognise that cultural and commercial experiences, expectations and concerns about kava in New Zealand may differ to those in Australia. To better inform the risk assessment, more data on current patterns of kava consumption and also hazard data is needed to properly characterise the risk to public health. Additionally, more information is needed to better understand how kava is commonly consumed in a modern/present-day context by its traditional users.

NZFS would welcome further engagement to ensure that the standard can remain fit-for-purpose for both New Zealand and Australia.

