

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-023

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: REVIEW OF FOOD LABELLING LAW AND POLICY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

- a) What has FSANZ done with the 61 recommendations in the Blewett Review?
- b) Recommendation 42 talks about a framework being developed around Country of Origin labelling based primarily on the ingoing weight of the ingredients and components. Is it your understanding that 'components' would include the product packaging?
- c) Does it not seem bizarre that under the current regulations - and the recommendation made in the Blewett Review - that Country of Origin labelling should include packaging, considering this is not what the consumer is technically buying?

Answer:

The written questions on notice from Senator Xenophon were answered during the Additional Estimates Hearing on 23 February 2011 (Hansard Page Reference CA 102). The following response is also provided to assist Senator Xenophon:

- a) It is not the responsibility of Food Standards Australia New Zealand to provide a response to the recommendations of the independent Panel for the Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy (the Review), as consideration of these recommendations is a policy matter.

b and c)

The Government has not yet formally considered the recommendations of the Review. The Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council is responsible for developing a response to the recommendations, and will consider its response at its meeting on 9 December 2011. The Australian Government will now work with the jurisdictions and the New Zealand Government to develop a whole of Ministerial Council response.