



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Mr Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Humphery

Thank you for your letter of 2 April 2007 to Ms Joanna Hewitt, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry, providing the opportunity to comment on the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Amendment Bill 2007. Ms Hewitt has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The Department has the responsibility for industries that span the food supply chain, including primary production and food manufacturing. The Department also jointly shares responsibility with the Department of Health and Ageing for food regulatory policy within the Australian Government.

The Department supports the proposed amendments that are designed to streamline the process of developing food standards in consultation with industry, consumers and other stakeholders. While the reforms will continue to protect public health and safety, they will introduce a risk based approach, which utilises resources more effectively. This will enable industry to innovate and compete more effectively in a global market place.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

Yours sincerely

David Mortimer
Executive Manager
Food and Agriculture Division

5 April 07