

submitted 18.12.2020

## Member Alert

### Submission deadline for phytosanitary irradiation of all fresh fruit and vegetables brought forward to December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**It has come to our attention that [Food Standards Australia New Zealand \(FSANZ\)](#) has brought forward the date of a recommendation to apply phytosanitary irradiation to all types of fresh fruit and vegetables.**

Originally the proposed timeframe for application [A1193](#) was to commence in November 2020, with public consultation taking place in April 2021. In response to a Queensland Government application, it was announced on October 30<sup>th</sup> that an earlier deadline for public consultation was to be December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This date has since been extended to **December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6pm AEDT.**

According to [FSANZ](#) and the supporting [document](#), the blanket approval covers 'all' fresh fruit and vegetables and would supersede the current listing. However, permission to irradiate would only apply to those not produced and consumed within the same quarantine region i.e. imported and domestic products crossing quarantine borders. Location of quarantine borders are located [here](#). The recommendation for ionising radiation (phytosanitary irradiation) is to preserve food and extend shelf life, as well as improve biosecurity for insects, moulds, yeasts and seeds.

As naturopaths and herbalists, we have long recognised that the basis of good health is clean, nutritious diet choices. The complexity of the issues surrounding the submission, potential ramifications, lack of public scrutiny and opportunity to respond is concerning. A reinstatement of the original April 2021 response date to ensure a fair and informed timeframe is appropriate at the very least.

The position of the NHAA is that there is insufficient consultation and supporting evidence to show that irradiation does not affect the nutritional quality of food and causes no harmful effects to human health. We are therefore not in favour of the proposal.

We encourage members to make their own submission regarding this proposal. Submissions must be made in writing and can be emailed directly to [submissions@foodstandards.gov.au](mailto:submissions@foodstandards.gov.au). These need to be clearly marked in the subject line with the word 'Submission' and include the project number and name 'A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables'. Alternatively a submission can be lodged via [FSANZ](#).

The following [link](#) provides a breakdown of the blanket approval for irradiation of all fruit and vegetables. The site contains a comprehensive overview, food irradiation A1193 FAQs, a sample letter, and cc list of relevant state MP representatives for the Australia New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation.

The Organic Industries response can also be viewed [here](#).