



Fruit
Growers
Tasmania Inc

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The Director
Food Standards Australia New Zealand Food Standards
PO Box 7186
CANBERRA ACT 2610
AUSTRALIA

Dear Madam /Sir

Reference **APPLICATION A1092: Irradiation of Specific Fruits and Vegetables:**

Application to FSANZ to amend the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include apples; apricots; cherries; honeydew melons; nectarines; peaches; plums; rockmelons; scallopini, strawberries; table grapes & zucchini (courgette) .

Fruit Growers Tasmania is the industry body representing a majority of the State's pome, stone fruit, cherry and berry growers. The State's fruit sector is worth \$100m per year with the apple and cherry sectors holding unique market access into protocol countries such as China and Japan.

Tasmania is free of fruit fly that gives the State's growers this market advantage – however as the pest is now endemic to Victoria, the risk to Tasmania's horticulture sector is increasing. Fruit Growers Tasmania has long supported the use of irradiation for biosecurity measures.

Using irradiation for extending the shelf life of products is not supported – given higher levels of irradiation does affect the nutritional value of the food.

As an industry body, Fruit Growers Tasmania has continually raised the issue of irradiation through previous submissions as well as engagement with political parties.

The purpose of this letter is to formally advise you that Fruit Growers Tasmania supports the application submitted by Qld DAFF, for the amendment of the Food Standards Code 1.5.3 to include apples; apricots; cherries; honeydew melons; nectarines; peaches; plums; rockmelons; scallopini, strawberries; table grapes & zucchini (courgette), on the approvals list for the use of irradiation as a pest disinfection treatment for a phyto-sanitary purpose.

These approvals will allow all producers, exporters and supply chain operatives enhanced access to Australian domestic markets under the ICA-55 protocol, as well as export markets, and that Irradiation provides to them all an efficacious and sustainable additional post – harvest disinfection option.

Through our peak industry bodies, Fruit Growers Tasmania already has encouraged discussions on the use of the prescribed levels of irradiation to be considered under international protocols as an agreed part of market improvement negotiations.

Within Australia, irradiation will provide another option for growers to ensure fruit is free of fruit fly and also the need for chemical usage is reduced across both pre and post

harvest depending on the growing region in Australia

Yours sincerely,



Business Development Manager
Fruit Growers Tasmania