

**Comments from the Victorian Departments of Health & Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources**

**Due date of submission – 22 March 2016**

The Victorian Departments of Health & Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1118 – Food derived from Herbicide-tolerant Corn Line MON87419 (the Application).

The Application seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from corn line MON87419 that has been genetically modified (GM) to provide tolerance to the herbicides dicamba and glufosinate ammonium (glufosinate).

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- The purpose of the application is to offer growers increased flexibility in weed control (including the control of weeds tolerant to the herbicide glyphosate) and conventional crop breeding.
- The genes introduced into MON87419, and the expressed proteins, have been assessed for safety in the food supply previously.
- MON87419 is a dent corn which is mostly processed into products such as corn syrup, corn starch and corn oil. These highly refined products are unlikely to contain any novel protein or DNA, and so would not require GM labelling. However, any products that do contain the novel protein or DNA, such as corn meal and grits, would be subject to the GM labelling requirements under the Food Standards Code, enabling consumers to make informed choices.
- Commercial cultivation of MON87419 is likely to occur predominantly in North America. There is currently no intention by the applicant to seek approval to grow this GM corn variety in Australia or New Zealand.
- FSANZ approval is required to ensure that foods derived from corn line MON87419 (whether or not crossed with other corn varieties), and products containing these foods as ingredients, may legally be imported, sold and used in Australia and New Zealand.

The departments are of the view that this corn line would increase the crop varieties available to growers, and increase the choice of raw material available to buyers. No public health and safety concerns regarding toxicity, allergenicity, or nutrient composition concerns were raised by FSANZ in the safety assessment.

On this basis, the departments support the progression of Application A1118.