

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

Due Date of Submission – 19 March 2018

The Victorian Departments of Health and Human Services and Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1144 Re-categorising Coconut Milk for Food Additive Permissions.

The Application A1144 seeks to change the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code) to align food additive permissions with the Codex Alimentarius standards by changing the food category name and number for coconut milk products.

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- Currently coconut milk products fall under subcategory 14.1.2.1.1 (Coconut milk coconut cream and coconut syrup) of the category 14.1 (Non-alcoholic beverages and brewed soft drinks). This means that food additive permissions apply to food category coconut milk products are similar to beverages or juices.
- Coconut milk products are primarily used as cooking ingredients and can be categorised under category 4.3 (Processed fruits and vegetables).
- FSANZ is proposing to move the food subcategory 14.1.2.1.1 from the beverages category and add it as a new category under 4.3 (Processed fruits and vegetables). This will align with Codex Alimentarius, which categorises coconut milk products as fruits and vegetables and lists them under the food category of 04.1.1 (Processed fruit) in the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). This is consistent with the European Commission's current review of food categories in the food additives regulations (coconut milk falls within 4.2.4.1 Fruit and vegetable preparations excluding compote).
- The proposed changes will clarify the use of 'additives permitted at GMP'. These are permitted across the processed fruits and vegetables category, but can only be used in specific juices under the beverages category. This will permit these coconut products to use additives at good manufacturing practice levels.

On the basis of this understanding, the departments support the progression of the Application A1144, and continue to support a full review of the food additive standard.