

21st January 2022

Submission - Application A1232 - Food derived from drought-tolerant wheat line IND-00412-7

Manager – Applications Assessment
Food Standards Australia & New Zealand
PO Box 5423
Kingston ACT 2604
Australia
Email: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

George Weston Foods Ltd. wish to submit the following comments in relation to Application A1232 - Food derived from drought-tolerant wheat line IND-00412-7 ("Application A1232").

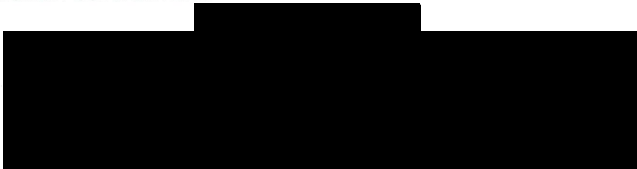
George Weston Foods Ltd is one of Australia and New Zealand's largest food manufacturers employing over 6000 people. MAURI, our bakery ingredients business, is the second largest human consumption miller domestically, purchasing around 1.2 million tonnes of Australian wheat per year for our Australian and New Zealand flour and feed mills and producing over 1 million bakery products a day in our Tip Top bakeries. We are passionate about providing safe, quality food and ingredients to our customers and consumers.

We understand that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has assessed an application made by Trigall Genetics seeking to permit the sale and use of food derived from a new food produced using gene technology: wheat line IND-00412-7. This wheat line has been genetically modified for drought and herbicide tolerance and, if approved, food derived from wheat line IND-00412-7 would be able to enter the Australian and New Zealand food supply as imported food products ("GM food"). This would include flour, bread, pasta, biscuits and other baked products.

We acknowledge that the current application is focused on food safety and nutritional issues associated with the GM food and does not address risks related to the environmental release of GM plants used in food production, which would need to be approved separately by the Gene Technology Regulator (GTR) in Australia and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in New Zealand, to be commercially grown in Australia or New Zealand.

George Weston Foods Ltd. is supportive of identifying more sustainable farming practices for farmers, but believe this can be achieved through conventional breeding techniques, and we do not support the approval of Application A1232. The key factor for us in reaching this position is that there have not been adequate peer reviewed food consumption studies to demonstrate that no risk of harm arises for consumers.

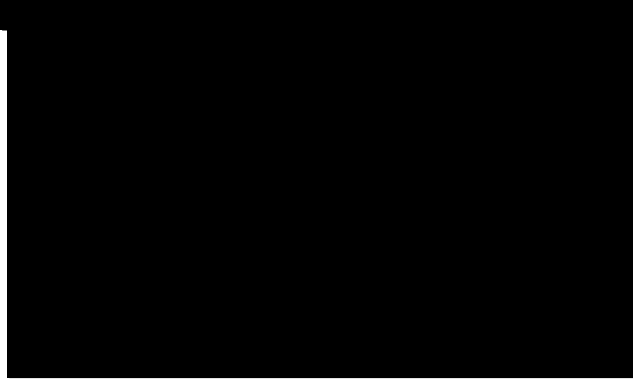
We are also concerned that approving Application A1232 will pave the way for GM wheat to be approved for commercial production of GM wheat in Australia, which would be highly detrimental to the Australian grain, flour milling and baking industries who take pride in providing clean and safe food ingredients to Australian consumers.



We therefore respectfully request that FSANZ reject Application A1232.

We hold ourselves available to discuss this with FSANZ, or to address any queries that you may have.

Regards,



NORTH RYDE OFFICE

ABN 45 008 429 632

BUILDING A, LEVEL 2, 11 TALAVERA ROAD, NORTH RYDE, 2113

PO BOX 587 NORTH RYDE BUSINESS CENTRE NSW 2113 AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE +612 9815 7300 FACSIMILE +612 9419 2907