



# GE Free New Zealand

*In Food And Environment Inc.*



26 February 2023

RE: P1061 -Code Maintenance Proposal 2023

Tēnā koe FSANZ,

GE Free NZ notes that the Code Maintenance Proposal P1061 to Standard 2.1.1 section 2.1.1-5 is to be amendment to state-

*"...to reflect the New Zealand Government's decision to require the mandatory addition of folic acid to all [Our bold] wheat flour that is sold as suitable for bread-making in New Zealand, in accordance with Standard 2.1.1 of the Code, on or from 13 August 2023".*

This updated wording in the Code Maintenance Proposal P1061 is inaccurate and does not reflect the NZ Government decision on July 8 2021 that specifies that only non- organic flour is required to be fortified with folic acid. This is the statement on the MPI webpage<sup>1</sup>.

*"... mandate fortification of non-organic flour used for bread making with folic acid by 2023".*

The press release<sup>2</sup> on the decision by Dr Ayesha Verrall on 8 July 2021 specified that

*"Organic and non-wheat flour will be exempt from fortification, providing a choice for consumers who don't want to consume folic acid,"*

We believe that the wording of "all" wheat flour this is a drafting mistake. We would like the directive to accurately reflect the decision passed down by the New Zealand government and amend the wording to –

*the New Zealand Government's decision to require the mandatory addition of folic acid to non-organic wheat flour that is sold as suitable for bread-making in New Zealand, in accordance with Standard 2.1.1 of the Code, on or from 13 August 2023.*

