



**FOOD STANDARDS**  
Australia New Zealand  
Te Mana Kounga Kai – Ahitereiria me Aotearoa

**12 December 2007**  
**[8-07]**

## **ABANDONMENT OF A PROPOSAL**

### **PROPOSAL P260**

### **USE OF NON-CULINARY HERBS IN FOOD**

For Information on matters relating to this Notice or the FSANZ assessment process generally, please refer to <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/>

## **ABANDONMENT OF PROPOSAL P260**

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has decided to abandon Proposal P260 – Use of Non-culinary Herbs in Food. This information provides notice to interested parties of the abandonment of Proposal P260. It is not an invitation for public comment.

Proposal P260 was prepared on 6 March 2003 in order to consider the issues associated with the use of non-culinary herbs in foods and, if necessary, to review the current food standards in relation to this matter in order to ensure that the public health and safety of consumers is adequately protected.

Subsequent to this Proposal being prepared, a Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) working group was formed to consider the development of a policy guideline on the addition to food of substances other than vitamins and minerals. FSANZ suspended the progression of Proposal P260 while awaiting the outcome of the policy development process. The policy guideline has not yet been finalised.

FSANZ has recently completed a review of Standard 1.5.1 – Novel Foods of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*, which was approved by the FSANZ Board in September 2007. FSANZ considers that the recommendations resulting from this review provide a mechanism in the Code that will ensure the consideration of public health and safety matters in relation to the addition of many non-culinary herbs to foods. FSANZ is also undertaking work on health claims, which has relevance to the regulation of non-culinary herbs in food.

Once a policy guideline on the addition to food of substances other than vitamins and minerals is received, FSANZ will consider the need to further review the relevant regulation and/or prepare a proposal to consider any food regulatory measures for non-culinary herbs in food; together with any other issues which may need examination in the light of the new policy guideline.