

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

Due date of submission – 27 February 2015

The Victorian Departments of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, and Health and Human Services (the Departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1098.

Application A1098, submitted by Novozymes Australia Pty Ltd, seeks approval for a new enzyme, serine protease (chymotrypsin) to be used as a processing aid to hydrolyse animal and vegetable proteins to produce smaller proteins and peptides of variable lengths. The enzyme is produced from a genetically modified (GM) strain of the bacterium *Bacillus lichiformis* (the strain).

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- The products of hydrolysis using this enzyme will be used as ingredients in a range of foods for various functionalities including protein fortification, reduced allergenicity and improved emulsification capability.
- The enzyme preparation complies with international specifications.
- The strain has a long history of safe use as a production strain for food grade enzymes.
- The strain is not present in the final enzyme preparation and the enzyme itself is identical to the chymotrypsin found in nature.
- There would be no GM labelling requirements for foods associated with the use of this enzyme as no novel DNA or protein would be present in those foods.

The Departments acknowledge that no toxicity or allergenicity concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment of this Application.

On this basis, the Departments support the progression of Application A1098.