

[REDACTED]

From: submissions
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 'Submission on A1193 Irradiation of all fresh fruit and vegetables'

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 4:17 PM
To: submissions <submissions@foodstandards.gov.au>
Subject: 'Submission on A1193 Irradiation of all fresh fruit and vegetables'

I would like to submit my rejection of the proposal to irradiate all fresh fruit and vegetables as tabled by DAF.
My reasons are as follows:

- There have been health issues in the past with irradiated food and I have no confidence that these issues have been resolved
- Despite DAF claims to the contrary I believe, based on evidence, that this process will reduce the nutrition in food and increase allergies. I believe I have the right to be able to purchase food that enhances my health not the opposite.
- Decreeing that ALL fruit and vegetables need to be irradiated creates problems for small farmers who either do not wish to or have the infrastructure/finance to irradiate food, it may drop the price paid for food as the wholesaler will have to pay for the treatment, and will stop roadside stalls, use of excess produce that didn't go to market and therefore is untreated etc.
- Whether there is an exception for organic food, which I believe has a policy of no irradiation, I could not find mentioned in the information I found.
- There are other friendlier ways to reduce the spread of fruit fly in particular – mainly done on farm not at point of purchase – therefore irradiation is not the only option. There is no evidence that these other pathways have been investigated.
- No other state or country expressly requires irradiation therefore it is not essential to trade policy.
- I have never seen labelling that informs the buyer that their produce has been irradiated so they can make an informed decision for themselves – this implies that there is not any labelling and this is one aspect that needs reassessing.
- The speed at which this submission has been tabled gives one to think that the DAF and the Qld government are looking at getting it through without any one knowing. That begs the question in regards to the integrity of the whole system.
- As a Queenslander, farmer, mother and someone who has struggled with her health this submission for irradiation is not in my interest or the interest of my family and wider community. Sickness and disease takes away a way to many people's joy in living and ultimately in many cases their lives. Irradiating fresh fruit and vegetables will reduce the nutrition that people receive from these essential, affordable foods and without labelling they will not realise and be able to try to compensate the lack. Those who can may buy organic but those who can't afford it will be unfairly put at risk.
- I believe DAF and the Queensland government would fulfil some of their role in doing the best for Queenslanders as public servants, in putting their energies into strengthening local markets, reducing competition from cheap imports, supporting our farmers and providing transparent policies. Doing the easiest, more advantageous (for them) solution is not always the best for us as a state.
- In the wake of COVID-19 and the pandemic, the LAST thing we need to do is support policies that reduce the ability for the general population to get good nutrition from their food to support the immune system.
- It seems the only benefit is to another corporate entity that will be able to control the food supply.

Regards
[REDACTED]

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