

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, 13 December 2020 7:58 PM

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Submission - A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Categories:

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a registered medical practitioner with a strong interest in diet and preventative health, practicing in suburban Melbourne.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposal to allow irradiation of all fresh fruit and vegetables. I believe that this proposal is misguided at best and reckless at worst.

1/

Irradiation has been shown to deplete foods of micronutrients eg Vitamin A, Vitamin C, EFA's and other micronutrients. This is a concern when the typical Australian diet already has inadequate intake of fruit and vegetables.

2/

There are no long term studies demonstrating the safety of irradiated foods for long term human consumption.

3/

Allowing the irradiation of all fruit and vegetables will likely increase the intake of Australians of irradiated food.

4/

Irradiated cat food is not allowed in Australia following adverse neurological reactions in 2008-9 following consumption of irradiated food by Australian domestic cats. Whilst the exact causal mechanism is uncertain, the precautionary principle should apply to food for human consumption.

5/

I have seen no evidence that irradiation will reduce the usage of toxic chemicals and pesticides in fruit and vegetable production.

6/

Widespread use of irradiation may allow imported fruit and vegetables to flood into Australia, adversely affecting Australian growers.

7/

I have seen no evidence that there will be clear, mandatory labelling of irradiated fruit and vegetables.

8/

Irradiation would be contrary to the principles of organic food....has FSANZ considered this?

As far as I can see, the only beneficiaries of this proposal are large agri-businesses. I fail to see any benefit for Australian consumers, and the possibility of some detriment has not been excluded.

I look forward to your rejection of A1193 and rescinding previous approvals for food irradiation.

Your Sincerely,

