

FSANZ Public Consultation- Scoping Paper on the Review of the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991

Following a plan made by the [Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation \(Forum\)](#) in [November 2019](#) to reform the Bi-national Food Regulation System, a review of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* is occurring to ensure it remains strong, robust and agile into the future.

The FSANZ Act Review, which closes on **16 Nov 2020**, will include a comprehensive examination of the effectiveness of the FSANZ Act and the associated operations and responsibilities of Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). The review represents a major overhaul of FSANZ and food regulations, comparable to that of the Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation (MMDR).

Stakeholders are encouraged to respond to the [Scoping Paper](#), which outlines key issues identified with the FSANZ Act and opportunities for legislative and operational reform. Stakeholders will be engaged for their perspectives on the issues and associated opportunities and the impact that these could have.

The consultation asks stakeholders, including businesses, questions including:

- Implementing "Reform idea 7 – Resource FSANZ to undertake regular, more holistic reviews of food standards" (Q10.b)
- "To what degree does inconsistent interpretation of food standards present an issue for the system?" (Q21)
- "To what degree is the food-medicine interface an issue for the system?" (Q24.a)
- Implementing "Reform idea 18 – Focus efforts on improving the food-medicine interface through regulatory practice" (Q25.a)
- implementing "Reform idea 20 – Align definitions and powers in legislation between therapeutic goods and foods" (Q25.c)

***Responses to the consultation can be done via an [online survey](#) until 16 Nov 2020**

***It is not necessary to complete the survey in one sitting. You can save your answers and come back later.**

*** Related documents can be accessed via the [Department of Health's Consultation Hub](#) (links are also provided in the 'resources' section of this alert).**

Additional projects to occur under the reform agenda of the Food Regulation System

In addition to the FSANZ Act Review, three other projects are being progressed under the ambitious reform agenda of the Food Regulation System:

Review of the Food Regulation Agreement	<p>Stage 1: describe a vision for the future of the food regulatory system to provide strategic direction for reform and feed into Stage 2.</p> <p>Stage 2: review the Food Regulation Agreement to create a new foundational document to underpin the food regulatory system.</p>		
Jurisdictional consistency	Identify the key areas of inconsistency in food regulatory approaches based on the impacts on industry and government.	Operations	Develop and implement new operational processes to support the system's governance.
FSANZ Act Review	Review the effectiveness of the FSANZ Act and the operations and responsibilities of FSANZ.		

These projects are being progressed in parallel to develop a new, best practice regulatory, legislative and operational basis for the system. There will be several opportunities for stakeholders to provide input to this reform agenda throughout its development and implementation. Given that the reform agenda is being progressed through interconnected projects, the submissions and findings of each consultation will be used to inform each project where appropriate. Submissions will be shared amongst the Government organisations and consultants who are working on these projects.

All consultation will be notified on the [food regulation website](#) and stakeholders who have subscribed for updates will also receive an email notification.

Resources

- [Public Consultation- Scoping Paper on the Review of the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991](#)
- FSANZ Act Review [Scoping paper](#)
- FSANZ [Survey Preview](#)
- FSANZ [Terms of Reference - Review into the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991](#)
- [Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991](#)
- Food Regulation [Modernisation of the food regulation system](#)
- Food Regulation [Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation Communiqué 15 November 2019](#)