

13 May 2021

Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services
Minister for Sport
Chair, Food Ministers Meeting
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: Senator.Colbeck@aph.gov.au

Copy to: FoodRegulationSecretariat@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Colbeck

DRAFT REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT REFORM OPTIONS FOR FSANZ ACT DO NOT ENABLE THE FOOD REGULATORY SYSTEM TO MEET ITS PRIMARY GOAL OF PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Food Ministers Meeting regarding the review of the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991 (FSANZ Act). I ask that this letter please be circulated to all members of the Food Ministers Meeting.

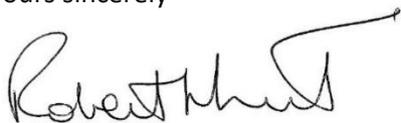
Diet-related disease is the greatest public health issue linked to Australia's food system. This is recognised by the government in several health policies including the draft National Preventive Health Strategy and draft National Obesity Strategy. However, the reform options presented in the draft FSANZ Act Review Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) fail to recognise this and fail to enable the Act to meet its primary goal of protecting public health.

The reform options presented in the RIS not only disregard public health advancements but take us backwards. The proposed reforms will increase barriers to implementing public health measures, compromise the independence of FSANZ, and further prioritisation of the food industry profits at the expense of public health. If the RIS is not revised to have a greater focus on public health, the reviewed FSANZ Act will not be fit for purpose.

The draft RIS must be revised to ensure the FSANZ Act enables a world-leading food regulatory system that can address diet-related disease, effectively protect public health and promote a healthy and resilient population to support economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you or Lyall about this before the next Food Ministers Meeting, or at our next scheduled bi-monthly meeting. I look forward to hearing from your office about a suitable time.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer