

Mr L Archer
2 Ash Street
MALENY QLD 4552

Dear Mr Archer

I refer to a Paper Petition and an E-Petition tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly, with you nominated as principal petitioner, concerning raw milk sales.

Advice has been sought from Safe Food Queensland, the authority responsible for the regulation of dairy produce under the *Food Production (Safety) Act 2000* and *Food Production (Safety) Regulation 2002*.

Recent announcements proposing legislative amendments regarding sale and consumption of unpasteurised cows milk are aimed at better achieving the food safety and public health outcomes intended by the joint Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) which forms the basis for the Safe Food Queensland legislation.

Under the Code, milk is required to be processed unless provided for elsewhere in the Code or unless a State law specifically provides otherwise. No Australian State permits the general sale of unpasteurised cows milk for drinking purposes or other unpasteurised dairy products. In Queensland limited exemption exists only for personal consumption from own animals (proposed to be restricted to consumption on the property on which the animal is located) and for controlled production of unpasteurised goats milk (this exemption is currently subject to review).

Food standards were initially established on a national basis in 1987 after an extensive development process, following States and the Commonwealth acknowledgement of the need for a nationally consistent approach. Further review occurred from the mid 1990s, culminating in the current joint Code, which commenced on 20 December 2002. The current Code now includes New Zealand and is administered by a joint body, Food Standards of Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ).

Participating Governments prefer to maintain a nationally consistent approach to food standards and FSANZ has the important role of protecting community health and safety through administering and maintaining these standards.

Part of this process enables individuals to seek changes to the Code and there is a legislative requirement for the FSANZ Board to consider the need for review of properly presented applications. The process for such applications is detailed on the FSANZ website at www.foodstandards.gov.au.

In these circumstances, you may wish to consider making such an application, including such evidence and supporting information as you have available to allow consideration by the body established for this purpose.

I trust that this information is of assistance to the petitioners. Should you require any further assistance or information in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Peter Merrell, Executive Director, Safe Food Queensland, on telephone 07 3253 9803.

Yours sincerely

Henry Palaszcuk MP
**Minister for Primary Industries
and Rural Communities**