

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
**BRISBANE QLD 4000**

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition, tabled paper number 6382, concerning provision for a Queensland-based regulatory scheme for the production and sale of unpasteurised bovine milk and milk products, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland on 28 October 2003.

Attached please find a response to Mr Kyle Grimshaw-Jones, who is nominated as the principal petitioner.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Should you require any further assistance or information in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

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

Att.

Mr Kyle Grimshaw-Jones  
PO Box 494  
**OXENFORD QLD 4210**

Dear Mr Grimshaw-Jones

I refer to a petition, with you nominated as principal petitioner, concerning provision for a Queensland-based regulatory scheme for the production and sale of unpasteurised bovine milk and milk products, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland on 28 October 2003.

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 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.

I am advised that Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) has received a request for an amendment to the Food Standards Code that would allow the sale of unpasteurised cows milk for human consumption. This application will be considered by FSANZ.

Queensland is prepared to assist in the assessment process that will determine whether a case can be made for producing and selling unpasteurised cows milk to the public while meeting the guarantee that the safety of this product will be no less than that of pasteurised milk and milk products. I would like to reiterate that 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.

Food safety is an increasingly complex area, thanks to the wide range of products available and the growing number of new products finding their way onto retail shelves on a daily basis. More and more choice may be good in some ways, but it increases the challenges posed for food safety and leaves many consumers confused about their options.

I am advised that Safe Food Queensland has been liaising with lobby groups for unpasteurised milk for over twelve months now, and providing advice about how this issue can be progressed through the appropriate channels.

The responsibility, however, for developing a system that provides safe and wholesome unpasteurised milk rests with those who want this product to be available and those who wish to supply it.

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 Palaszczuk MP  
**Minister for Primary Industries  
and Rural Communities**