

Subject: CM: DITT Input - RRAT References Committee – Definitions of Meat and Other Animal Products - 7
September 2021 - Hansard corrections and answers to questions on notice
Date: Thursday, 23 September 2021 9:19:42 AM

Good Morning

Apologies for the late response.

Please find attached Mr Luke Bowen's edited version of the transcript.

Answers to the Questions on Notice are provided below:

- **I understand that at the November 2019 Food Ministers' Meeting there was a recommendation put forward to limit the use of defined animal protein terms to the use of products derived from animals. Did the Northern Territory Government support that recommendation at the meeting?**

This issue was considered in an out-of-session process whereby Food Ministers considered the Food Regulation Standing Committee options paper that was developed after the Forum noted in October 2018 stakeholder concerns regarding potentially misleading descriptions of food. The Options paper considered whether the current food labelling requirements adequately differentiated between products and assisted consumers to understand the source (ie plant or animal) and differences in the nutrition profile on meat, dairy, and other plant based alternatives. Three options were considered:

1. Maintain the status quo and take no further action
2. Refer the matter to the Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs
3. Seek further information to inform the evidence base.

The Forum agreed on Option 1, and that if additional matters were identified to refer them to the Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs. NSW Food Authority then brought a paper to the November meeting seeking agreement to refer the naming of foods to FSANZ for reconsideration. This was not supported by the majority of jurisdictions, including the Northern Territory.

- **Does the department support the application of voluntary guidelines or a regulatory approach through FSANZ and the Food Ministers' Meeting?**

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade would support a regulatory approach to labelling of plant based foods.

- **Has the Northern Territory Government ever raised concerns with other jurisdictions relating to consumer confusion or misleading labelling concerns from plant based protein products?**

The NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade; and the NT Department of Health have not raised any concerns with other jurisdictions regarding consumer confusion or misleading labelling concerns from plant based protein products.

Kind regards

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