

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-139

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Double-Stranded RNAs

Type of Question: Hansard Page 62, 6 June 2013

Senator: Siewert

Question:

In relation to approval of two applications involving the technique of using double-stranded RNAs to genetically modify a food:

- a) What were these applications for?
- b) When were these applications approved?
- c) Please confirm that all of these applications related to food for human consumption as opposed to animal feed.

Answer:

- a) To date, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has approved five applications involving double-stranded RNA as follows:
 - Application A383 – three potato lines resistant to potato leafroll virus (also insect protected);
 - Application A384 – three potato lines resistant to potato virus Y (also insect protected);
 - Application A387 – three soybean lines containing high oleic acid;
 - Application A1018 – one soybean line containing high oleic acid; and
 - Application A1049 – one soybean line containing high oleic acid (also tolerant to glyphosate).
- b) The five applications involving double-stranded RNA were approved as follows:
 - Applications A383 and A384 were gazetted on 30 August 2001;
 - Application A387 was gazetted on 7 December 2000 (but was removed from the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* on 20 January 2011 because the three soybean lines were no longer in commercial production);
 - Application A1018 was gazetted on 18 February 2010; and
 - Application A1049 was gazetted on 11 July 2011.
- c) All of the above applications related to food for human consumption.