

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2014-2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000607

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Mandatory Register for Tracking Nanomaterials

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Does FSANZ support a mandatory register that would allow regulators to track nanomaterials through the food chain?

**Answer:**

Food Standards Australia New Zealand was part of the Department of Industry's National Enabling Technology Strategy (NETS) between 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013. This strategy was implemented to support the responsible development of technologies such as nanotechnology and biotechnology. Under NETS, the Department of Industry commissioned the Centre for International Economics to investigate the feasibility of a nanoproduct registry. This study, completed on 30 November 2011, concluded that Australia should not risk undermining the public credibility of nanotechnology regulations through the implementation of a non-enforceable registry at this time. The study is available on the Department of Industry's website at <http://www.industry.gov.au/industry/nanotechnology/NationalEnablingTechnologiesStrategy/Documents/FeasibilityMandatoryNanotechProductRegistry.pdf>