

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017–2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000726

**OUTCOME:** 2 – Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** New Breeding Techniques

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

**Senator:** Rice, Janet

**Question:**

According to the Australian Academy of Sciences, “Food Standards Australia and New Zealand are drafting a guidance document to provide clarity regarding food produced using gene editing technologies.”

(<https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/documents/gene-drives-discussion-paper-may2017.pdf>)

- a) When does FSANZ intend to release this document?
- b) Is this document going to be publicly released and submissions sought?
- c) Will the Forum on Food Regulation review the document prior to release?
- d) Will independent and external experts review the document prior to release?
- e) If yes to d), will FSANZ ensure that these experts have no actual or potential conflicts of interest?
- f) Will this guidance have the effect of allowing any of the new GM techniques without pre-market safety assessment?
- g) Will this guidance have the effect of reducing the level of required assessment for any of the new GM techniques?

**Answer:**

- a) Food Standards Australia New Zealand has not drafted a guidance document to provide clarity regarding food produced using gene editing technologies.
- b) - g) Please refer to the response to part a) above.