

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 16, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000739

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: GM Feeding Studies – Requirements for Applications

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

- a) Is it correct that FSANZ does not require animal feeding studies to be done a GM crop before FSANZ determines that a GM crop is safe to eat?
- b) Has FSANZ ever published a criticism or detailed critique of animal feeding studies submitted to it by applicants for the approval of a GM food?
- c) Has FSANZ ever responded to an applicant in writing asking that feeding studies be redone or that data be re-analysed as a result of shortcomings in those studies? If yes, please identify the studies and GMO food for which approval was being sought.

Answer:

- a) Yes. Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) does not routinely require animal feeding studies to complete a GM food safety assessment. Such studies would only be considered necessary by FSANZ if they were able to answer outstanding questions that could not be addressed by the standard safety assessment.
- b) No. Given FSANZ's position outlined in part a) above, FSANZ has received very few animal feeding studies for assessment as part of an application. Of the small number of studies that have been received, these were found to be of good quality.
- c) No. See part b) above.