

IRRADIATED FOODS, IMPORTATION AND CONSUMPTION

442. Dr Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) What is the State Government policy on the importation and consumption of irradiated foods?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of any risks to humans in the consumption of irradiated food?
- (3) Is the State Government considering allowing irradiated foods to be sold in WA for human consumption?
- (4) Has the Minister been involved in discussions with the Commonwealth Minister for Health and other State Health Ministers regarding the granting of a licence to a company to transport, use and store radioactive Cobalt 60 for the purposes of irradiating food stuffs?
- (5) If yes to (3), what has been the outcome of those discussions?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (1) Current Australian Food Law does not permit the irradiation of any particular food in Australia. It also prohibits the importation of irradiated food unless specifically permitted under the Food Standards Code. The Australian Food Standards Code is adopted by reference in Western Australia.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not at this stage. For a food to be approved for irradiation in Australia, an application would need to be submitted to the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA), and ANZFA would be required to follow due statutory processes. In the event that ANZFA supported the proposal, a recommendation would be made to the Council of Ministers, Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council and if approved, an amendment would be made to the Australian Food Standards Code as under existing Western Australian regulations amendment to the Food Standards Code are adopted by reference in Western Australia.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable