

Executive Summary

The purpose of this application is to amend Schedule 25-2 to clause 3 (a) of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) Standard 1.5.1 Novel Foods, to permit the introduction of Moringa Oleifera leaf (fresh and dried), immature (green) pods and seed oil as a food in Australia and New Zealand. Moringa Oleifera leaf (fresh and dried), immature (green) pods and seed oil are intended to be used a nutritional food source.

The world is moving backwards in its efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The current global recessionary environment makes it even more challenging for our governments to seek new and innovative ways to positively transform our agrifood systems. In contrast to this however, there are still many opportunities that exist for our governments and our communities alike to rethink how we can reduce the cost of nutritious foods and increase the availability, affordability and sustainability of healthy whole foods.

One such opportunity is the subject of this application. Moringa (species *Moringa Oleifera* Lamarck) belongs to the Moringaceae family and is a fast-growing, deciduous, sub-tropical tree that has wide application as a food. Of particular interest to this application are the high protein light green leaves, immature green pods and seed oil of the Moringa Oleifera tree which are all edible.

Internationally, Moringa Oleifera is considered a 'super food' and is in high demand with the European market recently valued at US\$903 million per annum with a forecast market size to reach US\$1.9 billion by 2027. Predicted growth in other markets such as the USA offers similar opportunities. In Australia, estimates suggest that the potential size of the Moringa Oleifera industry could reach \$2-5 million by 2030.

Although Moringa Oleifera has been recognised as a food in other jurisdictions for many years and is freely available to purchase here in Australia in our major food retail stores, it remains classified under Standard 1.5.1 of the Code as a non-traditional and novel food in Australia and New Zealand. Accordingly, this application seeks to amend the Code to permit the introduction of Moringa Oleifera leaf (fresh and dried), immature (green) pods and seed oil as a food in Australia and New Zealand. The proposed amendment will bring Australia and New Zealand into line with other jurisdictions that have approved the use of Moringa Oleifera as a food.

The proposed change is to benefit the Australian and New Zealand Moringa Oleifera industry. There is no exclusive capturable commercial benefit claimed in this application. There are several organisations that are already active in this industry and it is anticipated that when the proposed change is approved, many more organisations will look to produce Moringa Oleifera and its product range in Australia and New Zealand.