Brussels, 10 January 2020

From: International Stevia Council
Avenue de Tervuren 188a, Postbox 4
B-1150 Brussels, Belgium

To: Food Standards Australia New Zealand
E-mail: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

RE: Call for submissions – Application A1183 Enzymatic production of rebaudioside E from stevia leaf extract

The International Stevia Council (ISC) is a global trade association representing the stevia industry, including stevia leaf growers and producers, stevia extracts and steviol glycosides producers, users of steviol glycosides in final consumer products. ISC activities aim at improving the diets and health of people globally by addressing sugars and calories in food.

We would like to support the application A1183 made by made Blue California to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to include a new specification for the steviol glycoside rebaudioside E, produced by an enzymatic conversion method using an enzyme processing aid derived from a genetically modified strain of Pichia pastoris.

ISC also supports the proposed amendment of the specification of steviol glycosides from Stevia rebaudiana Bertoni in subsection S3—35(2) of the Code to increase the sweetness range in the description for steviol glycosides from Stevia rebaudiana Bertoni from 'approximately 200 to 300 times sweeter' to 'approximately 150 to 300 times sweeter' than sucrose.

ISC is in full support of the draft food regulatory measure as prepared.

We are aligned with the FSANZ assessment that there are no public health and safety risks associated with the use of Blue California's Reb E.

This approval is important for the food industry and consumers as it offers an additional alternative to the currently available nonnutritive sweeteners. Expanded availability of sugar alternatives for the development of table top sweeteners and other foods further supports public health directives to decrease sugar and calorie intakes in foods.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide our support of this amendment.

Kind regards,