

Questionnaire for animal cloning for food production

1. Country:	Australia	
2. Competent Authority/ies:	Food Standards Australia New Zealand Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry State and territory government food regulatory agencies: www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/foodenforcementcontacts	
3. Please identify a contact person (name, institution, telephone and e-mail address)	[REDACTED] Food Standards Australia New Zealand Boeing House 55 Blackall Street BARTON ACT 2600 Ph: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED] PO Box 7186 Canberra BC ACT 2610 Australia Email: info@foodstandards.gov.au	
4. Do you have national legislation regarding the use of animal cloning technique on your territory? If not, do you intend to draft a national legislation in the near future?		
YES		
NO	✓	
<p>Australia does not have specific national legislation on the use of animal cloning techniques and there is no intention to draft national legislation in the near future.</p> <p>Australia does have national animal research guidelines developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 7th edition 2009; and • Guidelines for the generation, breeding, care and use of genetically modified and cloned animals for scientific purposes, NHMRC Animal Welfare Committee 2006. <p>These guidelines were produced to assist investigators, research organisation Animal Ethics Committees, animal technicians and the broader community in the planning and conduct of research projects involving the generation and use of genetically modified and cloned animals of all species, and to ensure that the highest ethical standards apply to NHMRC funded research involving the use of animals. Compliance with the guidelines is a condition for research funding allocation, and NHMRC staff conduct ongoing monitoring of institutions to ensure that recipients of funding comply.</p> <p>Cloned animals are subject to state and territory government animal welfare legislation applicable to animals used for scientific purposes. The NHMRC's guidelines are called up in various ways under state and territory animal welfare legislation, in which case the relevant state or territory is responsible for the monitoring of compliance with their legislation.</p>		

5. Is the animal cloning technique used by private companies for breeding purposes in your territory?

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If yes, please specify the name of the companies and the estimated number of clones by species and the destination and quantities of the cloned animals and products thereof (reproductive materials):

Information of this type is not held by a single authority, and some of it may be deemed Commercial-in-Confidence. It is not readily available to the government for sharing with external parties.

While food from cloned animals and their progeny is not presently regulated, industry has placed a voluntary moratorium on products of cloning entering the food supply.

6. Do cloned animals in your country have a special identification or register?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

If yes, please specify how it is done. Please specify the species covered by the identification procedure or register.

Australia's National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) enables identification and traceability of livestock (cattle, sheep and goats) from property of birth to slaughter for biosecurity, meat safety, product integrity and market access purposes. The system is underpinned by state and territory legislation. However, the NLIS does not include details on whether an animal has been cloned.

7. Do reproductive materials (semen and embryo) from cloned animals produced in your country have a special identification or register?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

If yes, please specify how it is done. Please also specify the species covered by the identification procedure or register and if exported to which countries.

8. Do breeding centres or farmers on your territory import cloned animals or reproductive materials (semen and embryo) from cloned animals?

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If yes, please specify the species, the intended food production (milk or meat) and an estimated annual number of animals or amount of reproductive materials.

Reproductive materials from cloned animals are imported from time to time. However, there are no government registers that would enable an estimate of the annual number of

animals or amount of reproductive materials imported.

9. Do imported clones or reproductive materials (semen and embryo) from cloned animals have a special identification or register?

YES

NO

Unknown

✓

If yes, please specify how it is done. Please also specify the species covered by the identification or register.

10. Are you aware of any new information about possible improvements related to the health and welfare problems on the use of the animal cloning technique?

YES

NO

Unknown

✓

If yes, please provide the documents.

11. Do you have scientific risk assessments on the animal health and welfare and on the food safety of the products from clones and offspring of clones?

YES

NO

✓

If yes, please provide the documents.

12. Do you have in place, or do you envisage to put in place, a traceability and labelling system for food derived from cloned animals?

YES

NO

✓

If yes, please specify how it is done and for which type of products.

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, developed and maintained by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, requires food businesses to provide to the regulatory authority information on the name and business address in Australia of the vendor, manufacturer, packer or importer of food on their premises. Manufacturers, wholesalers and importers also need to maintain up-to-date lists of the businesses to which they supply their products, as well as which batches of product have gone where including, where relevant, other countries that have received the product.

The Code also requires one step forward/ one step back product tracing in the primary production and processing sectors, specifically for: seafood businesses; dairy primary production, transport and processing businesses; and egg, poultry and sprout processors.

13. Do you have in place, or do you envisage to put in place, a traceability and labelling system for food derived from offspring of cloned animals?

YES

NO

✓

If yes, please specify how it is done and for which type of products.

In responding to an independent review of food labelling law and policy in December 2011, Australian federal, state and territory and New Zealand ministers responsible for food regulation noted that, where necessary, foods that have been produced or processed using new technologies are subject to pre-market safety assessments and must be assessed as safe before they are allowed to enter the food supply.

Ministers supported the continued application by Food Standards Australia New Zealand of a case-by-case approach to the labelling requirements for new technologies. In doing so, ministers noted that mandatory labelling would place a significant cost burden on industry, may be trade-restrictive, and may inhibit investment in new technologies, and took the view that a more flexible and/or less burdensome approach could achieve the same policy goal.

14. Is the animal cloning technique used for research purposes on your territory?

YES

NO

✓

If yes, please provide the names of the laboratories and indicate the field and scope of the research area, the number of cloned animals by species and the final destination of these animals and their products.

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