

TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE
FOOD REGULATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Endorsed by the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) on 7 May 2020

Purpose

The Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) is responsible for providing effective and efficient support to the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation (Forum) to assist it with its policy decision role by:

- coordinating policy advice¹;
- ensuring a consistent approach to the implementation and enforcement of food standards¹;
- advising on strategic issues relating to the cooperative Food Regulation System (the System) across the nation and, as applicable, with New Zealand; and
- operating as a forum for collaboration, planning, evaluation and information sharing.

Scope

FRSC's remit covers the breadth of food policy, from how food is produced and processed, through to its distribution, sale and consumption by consumers.

Where there is a cross over with other public policy areas (such as agriculture or consumer affairs) FRSC may consider whether it is the best placed body to address the issue, or options for partnerships.

As part of its overarching purpose FRSC:

- manages projects and resource to deliver on agreed Forum and FRSC priorities;
- sets priorities and undertakes annual planning for the whole of System;
- monitors and measures performance of the System;
- conducts environmental scanning;
- directs intelligence gathering; and
- provides advice to inform strategic planning for the System.

Membership

FRSC is a senior officials committee whose membership reflects the Forum membership and includes the Australian Government, state and territory governments; and the New Zealand government. FRSC members are required to reflect a 'whole-of-jurisdiction' view and to have the authority to make decisions on behalf of their jurisdictions².

The members shall invite the Australian Local Government Association to be a full participating member and Food Standards Australia New Zealand to be an observer.

FRSC is chaired by the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Health (or their delegate); and is supported by the Food Regulation Secretariat and a Senior Project Officer. FRSC may appoint a Deputy Chair.

¹ Food Regulation Agreement; ² Operating procedures ³ Adapted from the Blue Print

Principles of Operation³

- Set clear goals and objectives.
- Specify clear roles for all committees, groups and leads and clear decision making points.
- Genuine, effective two-way engagement with external stakeholders.
- Full understanding of matters to be solved, risks, challenges and opportunities are developed.
- Collection of evidence and information is undertaken to provide understanding.
- A full range of options are generated and evaluated when policies are developed and a whole of System approach is used to capture strategic links between policies.
- Implementation issues are a key consideration during policy development.
- The best tools are used to achieve the desired outcome; responses are proportionate; and the focus is on achieving consistent outcomes, noting that regulation is not the default position.
- The processes are flexible and evaluation for impact and efficiency post implementation is considered during policy development.
- Promotion of the System to improve stakeholders' understanding and confidence.

Operational rules

FRSC's operational rules are detailed in the *Operating Procedures for the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation*.

Review of Terms of References

These Terms of References can be reviewed by FRSC by agreement.