

PRIMARY PRODUCE SAFETY BILL 2011

FACT SHEET

- The Bill will complement the *Food Act 2003* to achieve a consistent regulatory framework for food safety covering the whole food chain. It replaces the *Egg Industry Act 2002* and *Meat Hygiene Act 1985*.
- Section 3 of the Bill states that its statutory objectives are –
 - a. to provide for the application in Tasmania of the (national) Food Standards Code as it relates to primary production activities; and
 - b. to develop food safety schemes for primary industries that reduce risks to consumers associated with unsafe or unsuitable produce; and
 - c. to promote consumer confidence in the safety and integrity of Tasmanian primary produce; and
 - d. to facilitate the trade of Tasmanian primary produce by ensuring it meets national and international food safety standards.
- The Bill will establish the overarching legal framework for primary produce safety. However it will be regulations made subsequently under the Act that determines which industry sectors will be subject to direct regulation (initially only the egg, meat and seafood sectors). In particular, the regulations will specify which primary producers will need accreditation under the new Act.
- The Bill will establish an accreditation and certification system for primary producers. An accreditation system is crucial for primary industry. Apart from its value as a flexible enforcement mechanism, accreditation enables producers to demonstrate compliance with statutory Primary Production and Processing (PPP) Standards in order to gain access to domestic and international markets.
- The Bill will establish the position of Chief Inspector of Primary Produce Safety to centrally administer the Act's producer accreditation, auditing and certification system.
- The Bill will create offences which better reflect its focus on the primary production and supply end of the food chain, and which complement the retail focused offences in the Food Act.
- The Bill will allow for the creation of industry specific regulations to bring new national PPP Standards into force.
- The Bill will allow the Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority (TDIA) to regulate dairy food safety under the new legislation should it decide to do so in the future.
- The Economic Reform Unit in the Department of Treasury and Finance has certified that the proposed Bill will not restrict competition or have a significant negative impact on business.