

# A profile of the NSW Food Authority

Australia's first completely integrated food agency

**Mission** To ensure that food in NSW is safe and correctly labelled and that NSW consumers are able to make informed choices about the food they eat.





# Message from the Minister

The establishment of the NSW Food Authority marks a milestone in the Government's six-year campaign to reduce food-borne illness in New South Wales.

The NSW Food Authority will be Australia's first single body responsible for food safety from harvest, paddock and catch to the consumer.

Estimates indicate food-borne illness costs the State more than \$765 million each year in loss of income and productivity. The NSW Food Authority will enable us to reduce that cost by improving food regulations and helping the industry with better coordination, training and advice.

This new agency will work with local government to ensure industry compliance with national food standards (including implementing national food labelling requirements) and will represent NSW in national policy and standards development. It will also educate consumers about food



safety and labelling and respond to enquiries from industry, local government and the community about food regulation.

The commitment of \$9.48million by the NSW Government for the NSW Food Authority's first year of operation reflects our determination to build a stronger and safer food supply for NSW consumers.

I look forward to the NSW Food Authority – as a first for Australia – continuing to lead in the field of food regulation to the benefit of industry and consumers throughout our State.

The Hon. Ian Macdonald MLC  
NSW Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

# Simple food safety tips

1. Remember the temperature danger zone. Keep cold food cold (below 5°C) and hot food hot (above 60°C).
2. Cook food thoroughly.
3. Separate raw and cooked food and don't use the same utensils for both.
4. Keep utensils and kitchen clean.
5. Wash and dry hands thoroughly before handling food.



## Who we are

The NSW Food Authority is a State Government agency established in April 2004 to provide New South Wales with the best food regulation system in Australia.

The Food Authority was formed by merging SafeFood NSW with the food regulatory activities of NSW Health. As Australia's first completely integrated or "through-chain" food regulation agency, the NSW Food Authority is responsible for food safety across the entire food industry, from primary production to point-of-sale.

Before the Authority was established, responsibility for food regulation in NSW was divided across a number of State agencies. The establishment of the NSW Food Authority will create a more streamlined, consistent and efficient approach to food regulation in NSW and a single point of contact for both the industry and public. The Authority will work with local government to better define and support their continuing role in food regulation.

## What we do

The NSW Food Authority provides the regulation framework for industry to produce safe and correctly labelled food by

- Contributing to national food policies and standards
- Establishing NSW regulations and food safety schemes
- Developing food laws in consultation with stakeholders
- Auditing, inspecting and enforcing food regulations

The Authority also educates consumers on food safety by

- Cultivating good food handling practices
- Sharing information on food safety
- Providing information on correct labelling



## How we work

The NSW Food Authority works with the local government to enforce all aspects of the national Food Standards Code, the NSW Food Act 2003 and the State's food safety schemes.

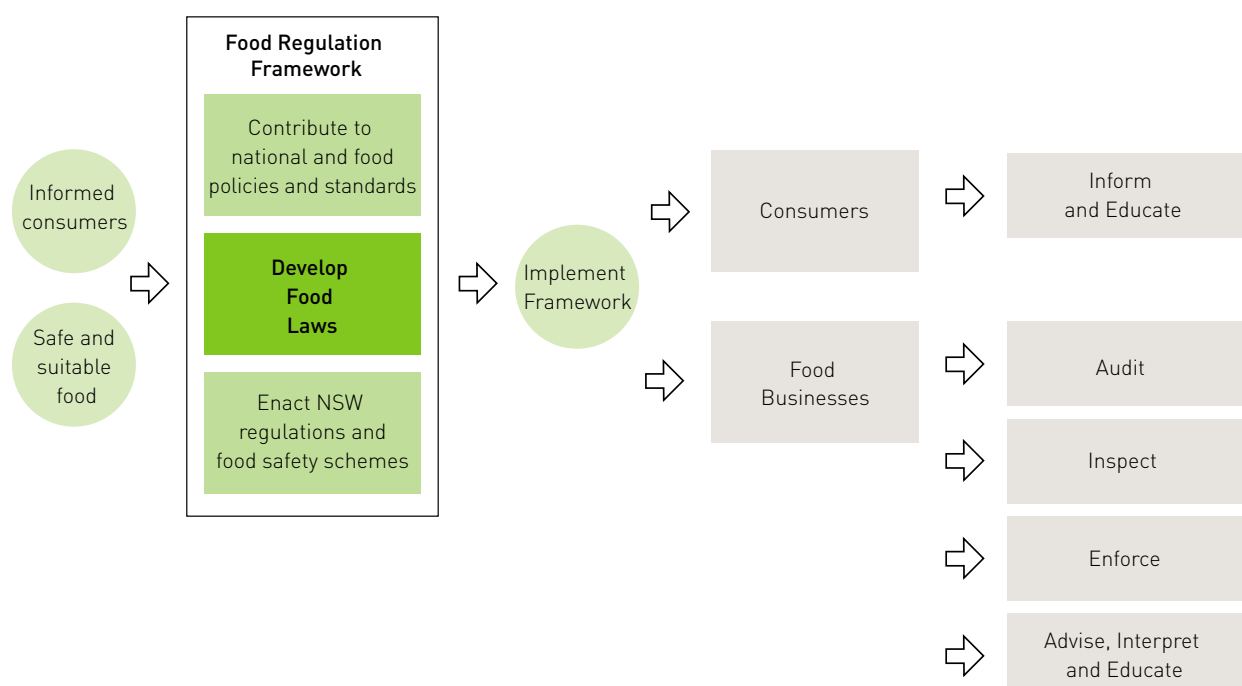
Food safety schemes target food safety risks throughout the food supply chain and are tailored to individual industries, sectors or businesses. The schemes incorporate national standards and are introduced by regulation under the Food Act.

The NSW Food Authority ensures that industry complies with food safety schemes by licensing food businesses in NSW, auditing and inspecting their operations regularly and where necessary, penalising non-compliance.

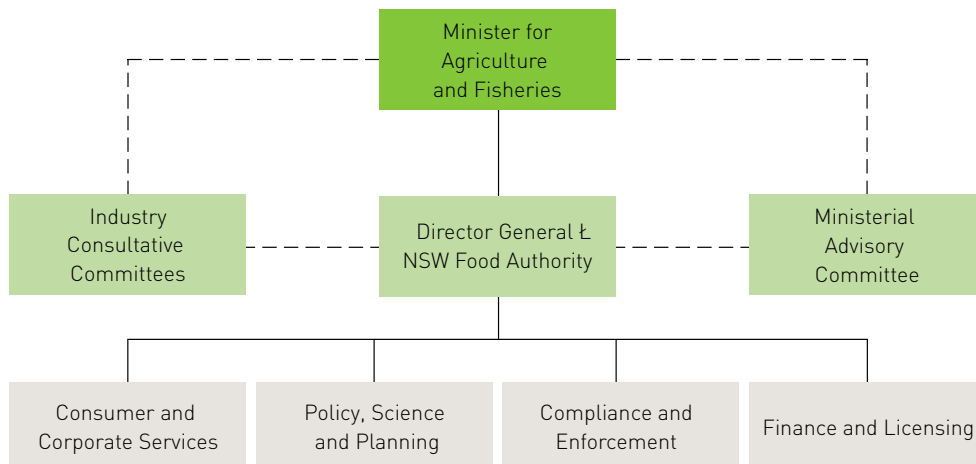
The Food Authority also informs and educates consumers on food labelling, food handling and hygiene and complements the work of NSW Health in providing nutrition information and education for the community.

A Ministerial Advisory Committee, to be established in mid 2004, will provide expert advice to the NSW Food Authority and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries on a range of food safety matters.

## The NSW Food Authority Regulation Framework



## The NSW Food Authority Structure



### How we work with other agencies

The NSW Food Authority values its vital links with other agencies at State and national level, in particular, NSW Health, NSW Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the NSW Office of Fair Trading and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

The NSW Food Authority works to ensure the effective implementation of NSW food standards developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand on composition, labelling and contaminants, including microbiological limits for all foods produced or imported for sale in Australia and New Zealand. It will support local government which conducts essential enforcement work through Environmental Health Officers.

NSW Health will remain responsible for the notifiable disease system and surveillance of food-borne disease, epidemiological investigation and joint response with the NSW Food Authority to food-borne disease, nutrition policy and health promotion activities.

NSW Agriculture will maintain responsibility for the control of animal and plant diseases and pests; livestock identification and traceability; stock foods; use of veterinary medicines and other products and fertilisers.





# Contact

The NSW Food Authority  
6 Avenue of the Americas, Newington NSW 2127  
PO Box 6682, Silverwater NSW 1811  
Tel: 02 9741 4777 Fax: 02 9741 4888  
Email: [contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au)

All photographs shot on location at Emile's  
Fruit and Vegetables, Norton Street Grocer,  
Sydney Fish Markets, Fratelli Paradiso  
Restaurant, AC Butchery, The Fine Food Store.  
Photography by Andrea Francolini.