



28 May 2018

## Position Statement

### Hormones and Chicken Meat

#### **No hormones are fed or otherwise administered to any poultry in Australia today.**

Hormones have not been used in the Australian poultry industry for more than 50 years.

Hormones were occasionally used in the 1950s and 60s as an alternative to castration to improve the juiciness and tenderness of meat, which at the time primarily came from the processing of laying hens at the end of their productive life, or surplus cockerels from the egg industry. The development of improved breeds of chicken, specifically bred to carry more meat, rendered this practice unnecessary more than 50 years ago. As a result, there are no hormone products available for administration to chickens these days and haven't been for over half a century.

Furthermore, as there are no hormones registered for use in poultry in Australia, their use is both unnecessary **and** illegal.

Some retailers and chicken companies sometimes market their chicken as having “no added hormones” or similar claims – the truth is that the same is true of all chicken meat sold in Australia.

Therefore, customers can rest assured that no hormones are administered to Australian meat chickens under any circumstance, and there is no basis for any food safety concern regarding hormones.

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