



**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
*For Immediate Use*

28 May 2007

**SODIUM BENZOATE & REPORTS BASED ON RESEARCH BY PROFESSOR PETER PIPER OF SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY UK**

All additives used in beverages must be approved by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

Sodium benzoate and benzoic acid are approved for food use. Food additives are only permitted for use after a long and careful process of evaluation. This includes rigorous assessments for safety, undertaken by independent scientific committees. Professor Piper research was done in 1999, it was carried out on yeast DNA and the relevance of this research to humans is unclear.

FSANZ is aware of Professor Piper's paper, it is our understanding that this paper has already been considered by FSANZ when they last reviewed approval for benzoates use in Australia and New Zealand. FSANZ along with the European's Food Safety Authority and the US's Food & Drugs Administration (FDA) have all stated that they are committed to continued monitoring of intakes of additives and their usage in foods.

All ingredients used by the soft drinks industry are considered as safe to use by FSANZ.

FSANZ has assured the Beverages Industry that the apparent concerns regarding sodium benzoate have already been investigated and it sees no reason to change its view that sodium benzoate is safe.

Consumers can continue to enjoy soft drinks in the full confidence that they are safe to drink.

*-Ends-*

**For more information please contact:**

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**[ PLEASE NOTE: TONY GENTILE WILL BE DEPARTING FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AS OF 29 MAY 2007 ]**

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The Australian Beverages Council Ltd is the peak industry voice representing the interest of manufacturers, distributors and importers of non-alcoholic beverages. The Australian Beverages Council represents a total of 95 percent of the retail market for carbonated beverages as well as the majority of other non-alcoholic water and juice based beverages.