



## MEDIA STATEMENT

8 September 2008

### Greens Proposal on Food Additives Not Based on Sound Science

The Australian Beverages Council, Australia's peak non-alcoholic beverages industry association, has rejected that calls from the NSW Greens for the banning of a number of food additives as based on questionable research and not on sound science.

Australian Beverages Council Chief Executive Tony Gentile said that while a one-off study by Southampton University suggested that there may be a link between a number of food additives and childhood behavioural disorders, a subsequent review of the research had dismissed the findings.

'The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in March this year, after studying the Southampton University report, found that claims made that certain food colour additives resulted in increased instances of hyperactivity in children were weak,' Mr Gentile said.

The EFSA review stated that:

*"The Panel concludes that the McCann et al. study provides limited evidence that the two different mixtures of synthetic colours and sodium benzoate tested had a small and statistically significant effect on activity and attention in children..."*

- And -

*"...The Panel concludes that the findings of the study cannot be used as a basis for altering the ADI (Acceptable Daily Intake) of the respective food colours or sodium benzoate."* [\[1\]](#)

'The European Food Safety Authority's findings demonstrate the Greens' concerns are ultimately unjustified.

'Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) has since backed up the European regulator's findings.

[\[1\]http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1178694648892.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178694648892.htm)

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