

# MPI Policy Statement on Roles and Responsibilities for the Safety of Non-commercial Food

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'Non commercial' food is food *not intended for sale*. Non-commercial food activities include wild food gathering, hunting, and recreational catch; and home vegetable gardening, fruit cultivation, rearing domestic animals for food, homekill slaughter, and home cooking.

Activities where people grow, take, hunt, fish and/or process 'non-commercial' food are recognised as part of the traditional Kiwi way of life. The consumption of non-commercial food is important to many cultures, including Māori and Pacific Island.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (MPI) generally does not regulate non-commercial food. This means that non-commercial food and related activities are generally not subject to legal requirements for food safety.

Non-regulatory intervention is more appropriate, efficient and effective in managing associated risks, such as those to New Zealand's public health and international reputation as a trusted supplier of safe food. This includes providing information and advice ('risk communication') that supports safe food practices, decisions and consumption within the community, home, and marae.

MPI currently carries out the following non-regulatory roles and responsibilities to manage risks associated with non-commercial food and related activities:

- providing science-based information to consumers on safe handling of food in their home and communities, including avoiding risks arising from inadequate hygiene, transporting, storing, and cooking, for example:
  - the 'Food Smart: Clean. Cook. Chill' consumer awareness campaign for food safety; and
  - the Wild Food Safety DVD and two complementary booklets: *Food Safety for Hunters* and *Food Safety for Seafood Gatherers*;
- providing targeted information for different groups of New Zealanders, including working with Māori under MPI's 'Shared Vision' Strategy, and the Pacific community through 'Umu Pasifika';
- working with consumer groups and conducting consumer surveys, so that MPI is informed about their food safety concerns, what they are eating, their food handling

practices in the home and community, and how food choices may be affecting their longer-term health;

- providing a monitoring programme for marine biotoxins in recreational shellfish and providing Public Health Units with data to implement appropriate public health responses, in cooperation with Territorial Authorities and Regional Councils, for unsafe recreational shellfish around New Zealand; and
- providing specific advice to local government, central government, and international agencies regarding all food safety issues, relating to both commercial and non-commercial food.

## **Background to the MPI Policy Statement on Roles and Responsibilities for the Safety of Non-commercial Food**

### [MPI Information Paper on the Safety of Non-commercial Food - MPI Roles and Responsibilities](#)

MPI will continue to work closely with relevant agencies so that government efficiency may be improved in this area. This may include a review of the allocation of certain roles and responsibilities and/or their implementation.

By strengthening the performance (including coordination and integration) of monitoring, information sharing, and risk communication, foodborne illness associated with non-commercial food may be reduced. This, in turn, may strengthen the integrity of New Zealand's reputation for having a safe food supply chain.

### [MPI Policy Statement on Wild Food](#)

### [MPI Position Paper on Non Commercial Wild Food](#)

## **Further information**

### [Travel and recreation](#)

### [Shellfish biotoxin alerts](#)

### [Tips for food safety](#)

### [Marae food safety](#)

### [Animal welfare legal overview](#)

### [Animal welfare standards and best practice](#)

### [Recreational fishing rules](#)

[Recreational hunting – what to hunt, what not to hunt, and where to get permits](#) [Department of Conservation (DoC)]

[Check where pesticides have been used in New Zealand](#) [DoC]; and

[Conservation threats and impacts](#) [DoC].

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