

April 2026

PROJECT SUMMARY

‘Accelerating Food Transformation’ Project Phase 2 – Interim Report

KEY POINTS

• This summary highlights the key findings from Phase 2 of the project, which investigate the legal barriers and opportunities for upcycled foods in Australia

THE CHALLENGE

Upcycled foods is an expanding food category and sector with the potential to reduce food waste. Whether there are regulatory barriers to these foods is unclear and opportunities to enable upcycled foods using regulatory interventions has not previously been investigated.

THE OPPORTUNITY

This project provides an opportunity to understand how, and in what circumstances, law and policy could enable upcycled foods at state and federal levels drawing on Australian food law, international food standards and laws and policies from other jurisdictions.

OUTCOMES

Drawing on a legal and policy analysis, and supported by the findings in Phase 1 of this research, the following findings were provided:

1. No regulations in Australia appear to unduly burden upcycled foods, and this aligns with our findings from semi-structured interviews presented in our Phase 1 – Interim Report.
2. “Upcycled food” lacks a legal definition, which may hinder consumer trust, as suggested in Phase 1 of this research, and potentially creates a challenge for compliance with Australian Consumer Law.
3. The verification and accurate account of upcycled food claims, including claims related to waste diversion, is an increasingly important issue for the upcycled food sector.
4. There is some ambiguity about whether certain upcycled food products, especially those that are supplements and extracts, are a food or a medicine, which may in the future create risk and confusion.
5. While there appears to be no laws specific to upcycled food in comparable jurisdictions, the US has

a third-party certification scheme and a proposed law that encompasses upcycled foods.

NEXT STEPS

The next phases of this research will build on Phase 1 and Phase 2 findings from this project to (a) conduct case studies that showcase the business case for upcycled food (Phase 3); and (b) conduct focus groups and a national consumer survey to understand Australia consumers' perceptions of upcycled food (Phase 4).

PROJECT TEAM

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PROJECT WEBPAGE

<https://endfoodwaste.com.au/projects/accelerating-food-transformation/>

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Fact Sheet Version 1 – Date

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