



Australian Government

Consultation on a Possible New Geographical Indications Right

Geographical Indications
and Indigenous Knowledge
22 October 2020



Introduction

We would like to seek your views on how a GI could protect authentic Indigenous products

Presentation

IK and a possible new Australian GI right

Discussion

Discussion questions and Q&A

Please Note: Nothing in this consultation means the Australian Government has agreed, or will agree, to make any changes to its existing GI regulatory framework or policy.



What is a GI?

A GI is a name that identifies a product as originating in a country, region or locality where a particular quality, reputation or other characteristic of the product is essentially attributable to that geographic origin.

Application to Indigenous products



Bushfoods grown in a particular area or locality



Arts and crafts with a close connection with country, protecting a local image or identifier

How the rights may work



Bushfood

Bushfoods grown in a particularly locality



Traditional knowledge

Knowledge related to cultivating or using native plants has significant commercial value



Communal management

GIs are generally managed by a central body



Rules

The central body agree conditions outlining how the bushfood is grown



Authenticity

Once conditions are met producers are able to use the term on their products



Benefits



- Help consumers identify and buy authentic products
- Enables Indigenous governance
- Can be communally owned
- Flexibility to accommodate innovation and development

Risks



- GIs protect the use of a name or image - not the use or sale of the products
- GIs do not provide wholistic protection to Indigenous Knowledge and culture
- Central body needed to maintain the GI including enforcement against unauthorised use



Discussion questions

1. Do you see benefits in GI rights for products that you or your community produce?
2. What do you think would help you apply for and use a GI?
3. Are there particular activities or industries where you think this would be more relevant than others?
4. Do you see any risk or sensitivities that might arise in providing GIs protection? How might these risks be managed?
5. What kind of rules do you think would work if GIs were going to be used in relation to IK? Do you see any particular organisations as being well-placed to help design and enforce those rules?
6. How might a GI apply where knowledge is shared by more than one community?
7. How might an Indigenous Advisory Panel be able to help?

Conclusion

- Consultation will be open until 30 November



Write to us



Take a five
minute survey



Join us for a
themed virtual
roundtable



Call us
02 6283 7911

- Details are available on our consultation hub:
<https://consultation.ipaustralia.gov.au/policy/geographical-indications/>