FOR 98 years, family-owned Australian company A S Harrison & Co have been supplying food and beverage manufacturers with premium, value-added ingredients and additives.

Over the last decade, the business has developed a broad portfolio of food ingredients for the Australian and New Zealand markets.

Its Food Ingredients range includes Cheese and Dairy Powders, Meat Powders, Bakery products and Fruit and Vegetable Powders.

Moving with market requirements and trends they more recently developed their vegan and organic product ranges and have Ecocert and Kiwa certifications available.

Operating since 1923, A S Harrison & Co says the benefits it brings to customers are:
• naturally derived high-quality ingredients;
• consistent flavour, functionality, and appearance;
• kosher, Organic, Halal, non-GMO and low sodium options;
• high quality control standards – HACCP, Ecocert, Kiwa, Best Practice ISO 9001 and ISO 14001:2015;
• formulation/technical advice; and
• reliable supply chain and expertise in distribution.

The 2D line of defence

The rollout of 2D Barcodes from GS1 is providing traceability solutions across the supply chain and providing opportunities to do even more.

END-TO-END traceability throughout the supply chain can deliver significant benefits for not only companies, but also suppliers and customers. GS1 Australia is working with a range of businesses at each stage of food supply to help them understand the benefits of GS1 2D Barcodes.

The ability to track and trace information such as the origin of raw materials, how a product was made and how it was moved before it reached the end customer creates greater transparency in the entire paddock to plate process. It can play a significant role in assuring product quality, safety and authenticity.

When Woolworths began trialling GS1 DataMatrix in its stores last August, the aim was to use the 2D Barcodes – which hold valuable information including use-by and best before dates, weight, price and batch IDs – to assist with waste management and food safety.

“We’re excited to be the market leader in this trial of GS1 2D Barcodes,” said Roberto Olivares, Woolworths senior project manager.

“2D Barcodes add an additional line of defence to our established food safety protocols and support a more targeted response to risks thanks to improved traceability.

“We look forward to hearing feedback from suppliers and customers in the coming months. We plan to build on the potential of these barcodes well beyond food safety to offer customers valuable information on provenance, quality and sustainability. As we work towards a better tomorrow with our suppliers, 2D Barcodes can help us communicate a product’s verified sustainability credentials to customers.”

Introducing end-to-end product traceability as a strategic priority can unlock significant value, as well as create new opportunities for both the agriculture and food industries.

As more producers, suppliers and industry bodies show interest in 2D Barcodes, it’s hoped more businesses at different stages of the supply chain will begin using them. However, this will take time. It is not something that can be done at a flick of the switch, and there are many aspects that need to be considered when moving to 2D Barcodes, which GS1 can assist businesses to navigate.

With Woolworths leading the way, 2D Barcodes have the potential to reshape how food is tracked, traced and managed from field to fork, to reduce food waste, enhance food safety, verify quality and connect with customers.