



GrainGrowers Policy Position- Agricultural Chemicals

Reliable access to new and effective agricultural chemicals is critical for the long-term sustainability of the Australian grains industry

Background

Australian grain farmers require chemicals on a day to day basis to control pest and weed burdens on their property, ensuring their businesses remain productive and profitable.

All agricultural and veterinary chemical products in the Australian marketplace are registered, administered and regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) which was founded in 1993.

For a chemical product to legally be manufactured, imported, supplied, sold or used in Australia, it must be registered by the APVMA (unless made exempt). These products include those used by grain farmers- pesticides, herbicides, biocides, insecticides and seed treatments. Registering an agvet chemical involves a comprehensive process, including scientifically evaluating the safety and efficacy of a product in order to protect the health and safety of people, animals, plants and the environment.

APVMA's activities are almost entirely funded through cost recovery, with costs ultimately borne by farmers as users of the products.

Given the small size of the Australian market (2% of the global market), ensuring cost-effective products suited to the Australian environment and farming systems remains a challenge, both from a market and regulatory perspective.

Our Position

Australian farmers require access to the best available inputs in order to compete in a global marketplace and produce high quality safe produce for their customers.

Having access to new and effective agricultural chemicals in a competitive market ensures efficient control of pest and weed infestations and delivers a quality product for consumers.

GrainGrowers supports a regulatory framework underpinned by purely science-based criteria, which provides access to chemicals that are safe and effective, while ensuring the compliance burden is proportional to the potential risk posed by a product.

GrainGrowers also supports the work of the APVMA and believes if the organisation is to be moved from its current location in Canberra then a full cost-benefit analysis must be applied to justify a potential move.