



## **Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig**

**Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Senator for Queensland**

## **Senator the Hon. Nick Sherry**

**Minister Assisting on Deregulation  
Senator for Tasmania**

### **M E D I A R E L E A S E**

19 November 2010

### **Improving farm chemical and veterinary drugs regulation**

The Gillard Government is continuing to reform the regulation and use of farm chemicals and veterinary drugs to help improve productivity and international competitiveness in the agricultural sector.

The Government today released a discussion paper for possible reforms to improve the regulation of agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals by improving the performance of the regulatory body, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

“The proposed changes will reduce impediments to efficient assessment, while enhancing environmental and human health safeguards,” Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, said.

“This will be achieved through faster, more streamlined assessment and review procedures for chemicals which are supported by an improved risk framework and better articulated standards that will promote greater certainty for stakeholders.

“Agvet chemicals are integral to the management of pests and diseases in our farming and veterinary sectors, allowing farmers to produce safe and affordable food.

“These chemicals also provide vital protection against pests such as the Australian Plague Locust which can impact on crop yields.”

Minister Assisting on Deregulation, Senator Nick Sherry, said inefficiencies in the current regulatory system have led to a backlog in the chemical review program and may have discouraged companies from developing new and safer chemicals or bringing them to Australia.

“This is the first step to delivering the Government’s election commitment to better protect human health and the environment through efficient regulation of agvet chemicals,” Minister Sherry said.

“Instances of unnecessary duplication would be reduced by increasing the scope to use credible international agvet chemical assessments, while the APVMA’s responsiveness would be enhanced by increasing the flexibility with which it may access expert advice.”

Funding for the reform proposals, totalling \$8.75 million over four years, was announced in the Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook statement.

The assessment and registration of agvet chemicals in Australia is the responsibility of the APVMA which operates under a National Registration Agreement between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

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The reforms build on the Better Regulation Ministerial Partnership between Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Minister Assisting on Deregulation.

Stakeholders are being urged to have their say on the proposed reforms before 20 December 2010 but consultation will remain open until late January 2010.

A copy of the consultation paper and details about how to provide feedback can be found at [www.daff.gov.au/agvet](http://www.daff.gov.au/agvet).