



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 1 February 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

*Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Alby Schultz MP*

Inquiry into the Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

Committee to review new agricultural chemical registration processes

The National Farmers Federation and CropLife Australia will be among the organisations discussing the impact of proposed changes to the national registration scheme for agricultural and veterinary (Agvet) chemicals with the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee as part of the Committee's review of the Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

The Bill's Explanatory Memorandum states that it 'implements reforms to the approval, registration and reconsideration of agvet chemicals to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the current regulatory arrangements and provide greater certainty to the community that chemicals approved for use in Australia are safe.'

A number of stakeholder groups contend that the Bill's proposed changes will impose additional costs and regulatory burden on the sector without a rigorous cost-benefit analysis. In particular, the sector is concerned about the proposed mandatory system of re-approval and re-registration of all Agvet chemicals.

Committee Chair, Dick Adams MP said: "The Bill is an important initiative, modernising legislation first introduced in 1994 which underpins the current system". Mr Adams added: "The Committee recognises that there is a need to balance effective and efficient regulation with commercial and environmental concerns. This public hearing will allow the Committee to speak with stakeholders about how this can best be achieved".

The Committee's public hearing will examine a number of aspects of the proposed legislation including the initial assessment and registration process; the proposed re-approval and re-registration system; the international comparability of the proposed changes; and the effectiveness of the consultation process that led to the introduction of the Bill.

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Monday 4 February 2013
TIME: 9.30am – 2.00pm
VENUE: Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House CANBERRA

The hearing will be webcast live on: www.aph.gov.au/live

Further information about the Committee's inquiry including a program for the public hearing, Terms of Reference and a copy of the Bill is available on the Committee's website at:

www.aph.gov.au/arff

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or 0418 132 828 or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

Further information: contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4500, email arff.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/arff>