



Dissenting Report — ALP members of the Committee

Regarding Recommendation 2 – The Committee notes and supports the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in considering, in consultation with industry, the establishment of the Board of Directors for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. The Committee recommends that, if a board is to be established, the Minister for Agriculture should be consulted in relation to the appointment of Members to provide additional oversight and further links between the Minister and the APVMA.

Labor Members do not support the establishment of a Board of Directors for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority without proper consultation with industry stakeholders.

While the Committee was provided with evidence regarding governance arrangements, Labor members were not convinced that APVMA operations would be improved by the establishment of a governance board.

Labor is also concerned that given the APVMA is a cost-recovered regulator the implementation of a governance board will be borne by industry. We note that operating costs for the APVMA is currently running at a \$3.5 million operational loss per year.

Labor further notes and expresses its disappointment that the Government has proposed amendments to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Operational Efficiency) Bill 2017 to establish a governance board without engagement with industry stakeholders.

Labor recommends that the Government undertake proper analysis and stakeholder consultation before considering the implementation of a governance board for the APVMA.

Labor further recommends that the Government should remove its amendments to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Operational Efficiency) Bill 2017 to allow the Bill to pass the Senate as soon as

possible to further progress APVMA efficiencies. The Government could then put forward a separate bill for the establishment of the APVMA Governance Board for consideration by the Parliament.

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