Australian Government Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

15 November 2018

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates

Dear Committee

Significant or factual corrections

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority wishes to make the following three factual corrections to the Hansard of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates, Tuesday 23 October 2018.

CORRECTION 1

The correction relates to a question by Senator Rice which can be found on page 97 of the proof Hansard:

Senator RICE: Not talking about whether it is a risk but in terms of it being a hazard—this is that risk assessment being a hazard, timed exposure, essentially—do you accept the IARC findings that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic?

Dr Parker: Yes.

I wish to highlight to the committee that on page 97, I want to provide contextual clarity to the response:

Yes, we agree that that was the conclusion of the IARC report. The APVMA does not agree that glyphosate is a human carcinogen at likely levels of exposure when used according to label instructions.

CORRECTION 2

The correction relates to a question by Senator Rice which can be found on page 97 of the proof Hansard:

Senator RICE: Yes. But what I'm trying to get to is whether in APVMA—and in that assessment there was acceptance of that IARC finding, which was essentially a change in the understanding of the hazard of glyphosate?

Dr Lutze Dr Parker: I've already answered yes.

I wish to highlight to the committee that on page 98, I want to provide contextual clarity to the response:

Yes, we agree that that was the conclusion of the IARC report. The APVMA does not agree that glyphosate is a human carcinogen at likely levels of exposure when used according to label instructions.

CORRECTION 3

The correction relates to a question by Senator Rice which can be found on page 98 of the proof Hansard:

Senator RICE: That's right. So what I want to get to is: in terms of the hazard, did you accept that you needed to acknowledge that the hazard assessment of glyphosate had now changed from what had previously been the case prior to the IARC analysis?

Dr Lutze: The data suggests there is some very limited carcinogenicity associated with glyphosate. If I may quote from the IARC report—the IARC report included glyphosate in category 2A, of being a 'probable carcinogen', by saying there is 'limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans' and 'sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals'.

I wish to highlight to the committee that on page 98, I want to provide further clarity to the response:

The IARC report concluded there is some very limited carcinogenicity associated with glyphosate. If I may quote from the IARC report—the IARC report included glyphosate in category 2A, of being a 'probable carcinogen', by saying there is 'limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans' and 'sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals'.

Yours sincerely

Dr Chris Parker Chief Executive Officer