

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: APVMA 01

Division/Agency: Australian Pesticides Veterinary Medicines Authority

Topic: Objections to withdrawal of 2,4-D

Hansard page: 65 (14/02/07)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Chair—So who objects mostly to the withdrawal of it?

Dr Smith—I guess the most strenuous input we have had on this issue has been related to grain growers.

Chair—But what weed are they after?

Dr Smith—I would have to take that on notice.

Chair—Could you make available to the committee your lead objections? Do they detail what they are after in terms of what weed they are after? It is hard to make a constructive appraisal unless they tell us they are after—

Dr Smith—I could take that on notice and provide you with information on the specific weed or weeds that they are interested in treating.

Chair—I would be interested to see that. Then I will tell you the difference in the price if you do that for me.

Dr Smith—Okay. We will provide that.

Answer:

The lead objection from grain growers, mostly from Western Australia, is the efficacy of 2,4-D High Volatile Esters in stubble retention farming systems for control of wild radish, wild turnip, mustard, melons and cape tulip.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question no: APVMA 02

Division/Agency: Australian Pesticides Veterinary Medicines Authority

Topic: Client Satisfaction Surveys-Results

Hansard page: 70 (14/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'Brien—Does the APVMA undertake client satisfaction surveys of clients who register products?

Dr Smith—We do.

Senator O'Brien—Are you able to summarise the results?

Dr Smith—In general terms, we publish the findings or the key issues that are raised from our client satisfaction surveys on our web site. The last one that we published I recall was around October or November last year. I do not have specific numbers with me, but the sorts of issues that our clients indicate where they believe we could improve our performance relate to factors such as timeliness in processing applications—and that is an issue you have already touched on—and concerns about consistency in advice that they get from different people within different parts of the APVMA. I would be happy to take that on notice and provide you with the summary that we have prepared from previous surveys.

Senator O'Brien—That would be good, thank you.

Dr Smith—It is publicly available, so I am quite happy to do that.

Answer:

The most recent summary of responses to the Australian Pesticides Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA) registrant satisfaction survey, as shown on the APVMA website, is attached.

[AVPMA 02 attachment]