

Statement from the Chair, APVMA – Senate Estimates (May 2023)

At the previous Senate Estimates hearing of 14 February 2023, I made a statement to the Committee referencing serious allegations of misconduct within the APVMA. The APVMA Board continues to take these matters seriously. Investigations into these allegations by relevant authorities, remain underway.

While the investigations are being conducted it is not appropriate for me or others in the APVMA to comment.

The APVMA is pleased to assist the Committee with its questions today. However, in respect of matters where investigations remain ongoing, or, where the Board, following a request from Minister Watt, has asked that allegations concerning operational matters be investigated, I will not be in a position to respond.

I would like to note, that despite these events, the APVMA Board and the APVMA's leadership team and staff, remain focused on ensuring that Australians are provided with timely access to safe and effective agvet chemical products - to manage the risks of pests and diseases for the Australian community and to protect Australia's trade and the health and safety of people, animals and the environment.

In continuing to serve the Australian people, the recent work of the APVMA has included a number of world-first registrations, such as the approval of an oral product containing Fluralaner for lice control in sheep. The registration of this product has been welcomed by Australia's sheep and wool industries – it is a genuine game changer improving labour efficiency for Australia's hard-working wool growers. A world-first approval like this takes a huge amount of work from APVMA staff and we are very proud of their efforts.

Ms Hinder and I now welcome your questions.