From: Rosemary Anne Mason
To: RRAT, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Senate Inquiry into the independence of APVMA decisions
Date: Monday, 29 October 2018 6:05:58 AM
Attachments: The APVMA is in the hands of the agrochemical corporations.pdf

Senate Inquiry into the independence of APVMA decisions The APVMA is not independent: it is in the hands of the agrochemical corporations
I am replying to the Senate Inquiry. I have had a number of occasions to write to the APVMA since 2010.
I questioned their use of Roundup and Clothianidin on farmland draining into the Great Barrier Reef. *"The APVMA reminds users of the importance of following all label instructions"*
They clearly did not follow their own advice. Instructions for using Roundup Advance AG Herbicide by Monsanto include: "*Protection of Wildlife, Fish, Crustacea and Environment. Do not contaminate dam, river or stream with the product*."
Clothianidin (Sumitomo Shield a systemic neonicotinoid insecticide) has been granted registration by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (AVMA) for use on very low-lying sugar cane plantations draining into the Great Barrier Reef.
Instructions: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE, FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND ENVIRONMENT
DO NOT apply under weather conditions, or from spraying equipment, that may cause spray drift onto nearby or adjacent areas, particularly wetlands, water-bodies or watercourses. ***This product is highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates****. DO NOT contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with the chemical or used containers. DO NOT apply when there are aquatic and wetland areas including aquacultural ponds or surface streams and rivers downwind from the application area and within the mandatory no-spray zone shown in table 1.*

The great flooding in Queensland in 2010 and 2011 would have washed pesticides out of farmland and destroyed fish and aquatic invertebrates. A massive fish-kill occurred in the Darling River where GM Roundup Ready cotton with imidacloprid (a neonicotinoid insecticide) attached. "*It was phenomenal; you couldn't see the water, there were carp gasping for breath and crayfish crawling onto the bank.*" The water off the northern coast of Queensland where sugar-cane was grown in low-lying areas became littered with sick and dying turtles and dugongs (sea cows)." In Gladstone Harbour many sick fish were discovered; barramundi and bream were found with sores, skin rashes and infected eyes.

In addition to global warming, that is why there has been progressive destruction and bleaching of coral.
The organisms within the coral have been destroyed by biocides draining from farmland into the Great Barrier Reef.
They have never once replied to me.
I attach a document: The APVMA is in the hands of the agrochemical corporations

Yours sincerely

Dr Rosemary Mason MB, ChB, FRCA