



16th December, 2018

**Submission to the Senate Inquiry: Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment
(Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2018**

Dear Committee,

Our community networks acknowledge that the physical and mental well-being of our children and future generations relies on the health of our natural environment and not solely on the accumulation of national wealth. In line with our concerns already brought to your attention in the Submission (not yet published) to the Senate Inquiry into the APVMA, we call for the following:

1. Assessment/Re-assessment, Registration/Re-registration of pesticides as insidious environmental pollutants and toxicants;
2. Review of toxic trade deals for the importation of increasing quantities of cheap, high risk pesticides and the associated policies that promote their widespread application on our urban and natural public spaces;
3. Stronger measures to prevent pesticide pollution and associated harm due to “environmental weeding” and “pest control” on vast areas of urban infrastructure, including parks, playgrounds, schools and reserves;
4. Stronger measures to prevent “off target” damage and the involuntary exposure of communities to these agricultural poisons as they drift, run-off and volatilize in the urban environment

In conclusion, it is a public interest matter that “Streamlining Regulation” is tantamount to fast-tracking the regulation of pesticides in a system that is already out-of-control and **not** in line with **international best practice** such as in the APVMA’s granting of Permits **PER13236** and **PER13333**. We urge the Committee to consider independent scientific evidence of harm to the environment and human health as well as international best practice for the control of pesticides. Best practice includes the banning of pesticides on public land for cosmetic and unnecessary purposes. This high risk practice of spraying agricultural poisons on public land continues to be a public nuisance due to the Federal Regulator’s failure to acknowledge and assess the risk to unknown receptors in urban areas .
Yours sincerely,

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