

To: [RRAT Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Comments on the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2018
Date: Thursday, 17 January 2019 5:55:45 PM

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Comments on the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2018

Thanks for this opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs inquiry into the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2018.

I don't support the Bill as proposed as it gives no real protection to the people of Australia. I would like to see the Chemicals Reassessment and Re-Registration act reinstated so that they are actually access, not just providing their own "purchased" reports showing what they want governments to believe.

We need the onus of proof of the safety to be proven by the applicant not by "purchasing" science that meets their need, but by vigorous independent testing, whether it be actioned by the APVMA and paid for by the applicant, but not just supplied by the applicant. It appears that so much of the information to get these products approved has been falsified by applicants in the past, this was proven in the recent court case in America for the man who got non Hodgkins lymphoma. It seems fairly clear that glyphosate products should be withdrawn as soon as possible from this court case. As it appears they used their own "science" when applying for the product to be approved and every time there was a truly independent study that came out with a counter claim proving it unsafe – or reasonably unsafe enough to apply the Precautionary Principle and withdraw it pending further REAL evidence that it is in fact safe. I would like all previously registered pesticides and chemicals to be accessed under EU or similar guidelines so that accurate data and assessment techniques are used to truly show their damage to our environment.

I would like to see consumer advocates on the Board of the APVMA and other agencies that are connected with this Bill. I don't feel there is adequate representation and protection being given to the people affected by the use of pesticides and chemicals in our regional food production environments' and surrounding residential areas.

I would like to see all food produced in Australia clearly labelled with the chemicals used to grow and produce ingredients and manufactured products (including processing aids) so people can really make an informed choice as to what they want to support in our environment and ethically in their food choices.

I would like to see the Bill supporting long term research studies into the accumulative effects of

pesticides and chemicals on both our environment and us! As far as I'm aware very little has been done in this way, both with drugs (pharmaceuticals) and pesticides and chemicals. I'm sure with more data there would be so much more pulled from our environment.

I have concern for the workers from both the lack of honesty in production – ie strawberry producers who know that they have to stop spraying their crops 10 days before harvest, but don't because they are so heavily sprayed that the soil is dead and if they don't spray they will have no crop left to harvest in 10 days. So they just ignore the "regulation" as its not financially viable for their business. As an organic shop owner, I see all the backpackers coming in sick and wanting to find organic farms to work on due to being made sick from what chemicals have been sprayed on their cherry, blueberry, apple crops etc... The fact that people don't know what IS being sprayed on their food is very concerning. I hear many people wash their conventional fruit & vege with water or vinegar to try and remove the pesticides and chemicals, but they have no idea that most used these days are systemic and no amount of washing will take them out of their food.

I've also have concerns about organisations such as APVMA deriving their income (or any portion of their budget) from the application fees for said pesticides and chemicals. This is a conflict of interest against the citizen by not having an open and transparent body to protect us from the giant corporation's that are pushing their way through without vigorous balance. If their applications are going to be rejected, then in future they will not make applications thus creating further strain on already tight budgets for these small organisations to be there for "we the people".

It's just so unfair that the average person isn't aware of what is REALLY being done to their food in the name of profit. And if they did, they'd be appalled. Not only for the fact that our government and its agencies have let us all down, but are helping the culprits hide the truth in unfair labelling laws. The truth is, if all the pesticides, chemicals and processing aids used in growing and manufacturing food had to be disclosed on labelling, then food consumption would be entirely different in this country. People would revolt against the dishonest methods of food production that are used in Australia today and it appears we have no one on our side to protect us!

I just wish we could have an honest and ethical food system that really is about feeding us all good honest food to help us and our planet survive.

Corinne Coombs