



The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture

Pest inquiry told of problems with registration of pest products

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee has heard that companies producing new products for pest animal control are being hampered by long delays in registering products.

At a public hearing in on Wednesday (15 June 2005), the Committee took evidence from two companies involved in producing new pest animal products, Animal Control Technologies and Nocturnal Wildlife Research. Representatives from both companies spoke of problems with delays and clarity of the process involved with registering new chemical products.

New agricultural chemical products must be registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) before they are made available for use. In evidence taken from the APVMA at a public hearing on 1 June 2005, the Committee was told that deficiencies in applications are often a reason for delays in product registration. The comments of Animal Control Technologies and Nocturnal Wildlife Research suggest that the complexity of the process may be responsible for these deficiencies.

The Committee notes that the APVMA is currently developing standards that would enable a streamlined registration process for lower risk products. The Committee considers this is a positive development. The Committee is concerned, however, that the complexity and delay of the registration process may be preventing innovations in pest animal control from entering the market.

Committee Chair, Alby Schultz, said, "The Committee is concerned by the evidence it has received about the length of time it takes to register new products. Landholders are suffering serious problems from pest animals, and when research and development companies have produced a new product that can help address those problems, we need to make sure that it goes on the market as quickly as possible".

"The Committee plans to consider the evidence it has received in relation to registration and include some recommendations aimed at speeding up the process in its report."

The Committee plans to conduct a final series of public hearings and inspections in Western Australia before drafting its report, which is expected to be tabled before the end of the year.

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing Aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment:

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For background information:

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