



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Our reference: 2007/01746

Mr Donald Cooper
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine
Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Mr Cooper

Withdrawal of Australia's exemption for the use of mirex under Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Australia ratified the Stockholm Convention on 20 May 2004. Australia also registered a specific exemption under Article 4 for the continued use of the chemical "mirex" under licence in northern Australia as a bait control for the giant termite (*Mastotermes darwiniensis*). This exemption was registered on 9 July 2004, and pursuant to Article 4, expires on 17 May 2009 unless an extension is requested and granted or the exemption is withdrawn. This exemption is recorded on the Register of Specific Exemptions administered by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

The use of mirex has been limited to certain areas within the Northern Territory. In January 2006, the Northern Territory Government ceased issuing new authorisations for the use of mirex in the product Mirant. Authorisations were issued with a maximum of a 12 month term and, from 1 February 2007, the registration of Mirant ceased in Australia.

I am pleased to advise that this letter constitutes notification of withdrawal of Australia's specific exemption under paragraph 8, Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention and takes effect from the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Dr Barry Reville
Assistant Secretary
Environment Protection Branch
xxxxDATExxxx

