

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

3.34 The committee recommends that the states and territories should consider, as a matter of priority, adopting uniform description and labelling of fertiliser products to ensure consistency between jurisdictions.

Recommendation 2

3.35 The committee recommends that all state and territory agriculture departments should consider undertaking regular sample testing for specified ingredient levels, such as nitrogen/phosphorus/potassium (NPK) levels, in fertiliser products.

Recommendation 3

3.73 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth review Part IV of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* relating to restrictive trade practices with a view to amending these provisions of the Act so as to more effectively regulate anti-competitive practices and prevent abuse of market power.

Recommendation 4

3.84 The committee recommends that ABARE:

- collect and publish international input price information on fertiliser products on a regular basis on its website; and
- disseminate this information widely to farmers through the ABARE website, farmers' organisations, the rural press and other appropriate avenues.

Recommendation 5

3.102 The committee recommends that in the interests of transparency the industry improve its business practices to ensure that fertiliser companies:

- publish general information, including arrival of shipments, detailing the amount of fertiliser available in stock; and
- provide greater certainty in the filling of orders, especially orders for fertiliser products placed earlier in the season.

Recommendation 6

3.103 The committee recommends that, wherever possible, supply agreements between suppliers and customers be more structured and equitable, and, where appropriate, include standard contractual terms and conditions.

