



HeadsUp

A COMMENTARY
ON INDUSTRY ISSUES



Confidential

CropLife members only

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CropLife launches Drums-to-Drums: Evolution of drumMUSTER®

A major initiative for the **drumMUSTER®** program was launched today. Drums-to-Drums is an Australian-first in the sustainable management of agricultural chemical packaging and is the result of a partnership between CropLife, our not-for-profit stewardship subsidiary, Agsafe, and leading plastic recycler and packaging manufacturer, Pact Group.

This new initiative will see nearly one million plastic agricultural chemical containers now recycled directly back into new agricultural chemical containers each year. This will be supplementing the millions of containers that the program is already generally recycling.

The **drumMUSTER®** program has diverted over 42 million drums from landfill and recycled them in Australia into new products since 1999. Through our existing investment in Agsafe and new partnership with Pact Group, CropLife will be able to take the program even further and support Australia's transition towards a circular economy.

[See the video of Drums-to-Drums in action.](#)
[Read CropLife's media release here.](#)



[Image library available online.](#)

For more information about the Drums-to-Drums program, visit drumMUSTER.org.au.

For more information, contact: Dr Jana Phan | 0432 502 827 | jana.phan@croplife.org.au

The APVMA publishes its proposed decisions on the reconsiderations of paraquat and diquat

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has published its [proposed decisions on the reconsiderations of paraquat and diquat](#), non-selective herbicides used to control weeds in various agricultural, horticultural and commercial situations.

While CropLife Australia has an operating principle of not being directly involved in advocacy for individual products or actives, we are concerned by the decision and what it reflects in how the APVMA are applying the risk management principles of the Agvet Code and the possible serious negative perverse outcomes it may deliver in the regulation of crop protection products. CropLife is further concerned by the very significant implications this decision may have for agronomic outcomes and on effective integrated pest management programs.

The APVMA is proposing to:

- vary and affirm paraquat and diquat chemical product registrations and associated label approvals where at least one use pattern is proposed to be supported
- vary and affirm paraquat and diquat active constituent approvals to update the conditions of approval
- cancel two diquat chemical product registrations and associated label approvals that do not meet the statutory safety, trade or labelling criteria.

The proposed decision includes consideration of all current approved paraquat and diquat active constituents, registered chemical products and approved labels.

CropLife will continue to work with the APVMA and the Federal Department of Agriculture to address the serious challenge the current regulatory system is posing to the safe, effective and essential access to crop protection products for Australia's farming and environmental land management sectors.

[Find more information on APVMA's website.](#)

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Consultation for Updated Food Definitions

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has released their second consultation for 'P1055 Definitions for gene technology and new breeding techniques'. This proposal seeks to update the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to accurately reflect that many new breeding techniques (NBTs) result in foods identical to those developed through conventional breeding.

The proposed updated definitions focus on the presence of 'novel DNA', with foods lacking novel DNA not being classified as genetically modified (GM). This means that most foods derived from gene-edited crops will be exempt from assessment and labelling as GM.

Despite the extensive delay in finalising this proposal, we are pleased that the proposed definitions closely align with CropLife Australia's advocacy and member positions. However, we are continuing to work with a diverse group of sector stakeholders and the jurisdictions to ensure the FSANZ proposal is finalised as is and in a timely manner. Coupled with the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) partial exemption of gene edited organisms from GM classification, the proposed FSANZ changes provide a pathway to market for new crop varieties by significantly reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. This is critical to ensure Australian farmers and consumers have access to the wealth of benefits these technologies provide.

[Find the consultation online.](#)

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All previous Heads Up alerts can be found through the [member section of our website](#).

Please note:

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