



## MEDIA RELEASE

### AGVET AMENDMENT BILL WILL IMPROVE EFFICIENCY WHILE PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH

**Monday 14 July 2014 (Canberra)** – An efficient regulatory system that protects human health and safety will be maintained in Australia with the passage of a Bill that removes unnecessary re-registration and re-approval of agricultural chemicals.

“It is pleasing to see both the government and the opposition put party politics aside to provide an appropriate regulatory system for the registration and review of agricultural chemicals,” said Matthew Cossey, Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia. “Improving the efficiency of the regulator will ensure that Australian farmers have greater access to the latest, most effective and safest crop protection products.

“The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has responsibility to ensure that agricultural and veterinary chemicals are safe for users, the environment and consumers of Australian produce. Re-approval and re-registration would have duplicated the existing Chemical Review Program, increasing red tape and unnecessarily reducing access to products for Australian farmers, while resulting in worse health, safety and environmental outcomes.

“The passing of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Removing Re-approval and Re-registration) Bill 2014* (the Bill) in the Senate today means that the primacy of protecting human health and the environment is maintained and arbitrary time-based reviews will not undermine Australia achieving an efficient and effective regulator.

The Amendment Bill passed through the House of Representatives and the Senate with the support of the Federal Government and the Opposition.

“The previous government began the much needed task of efficiency reform of agricultural and veterinary chemical regulation in Australia. Unfortunately, including re-registration and re-approval imposed a regulation that would have been costly and unnecessary.”

“Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce delivered on the Coalitions election promise by bringing this Bill to the Parliament and Shadow Agriculture Minister the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon has shown a bipartisan commitment to agriculture and Australia’s farmers by supporting the Bill.

“The agriculture industry should find encouragement in having a Minister and Shadow Minister who are able to put party politics aside for the sake of supporting the Australian farming sector.”

According to a Deloitte Access Economics report released by CropLife Australia last year, 68 per cent of the total value of Australian crop production, or \$17.6 billion of Australian agricultural output, can be attributed to the use of crop protection products.

“The agricultural chemical sector creates 9,250 full time equivalent jobs across Australia and makes multiple contributions to the economy in areas including exports, manufacturing and trade,” continued Mr Cossey.

“It is crucial for Australia’s farming sector that the regulatory system protects human health and the environment without adding unnecessary and untargeted processes. The Bill that has passed through Parliament is a big step in the right direction towards more efficient and effective agricultural and veterinary chemical regulation.”

“Now the obligation is on the regulator to also deliver efficiencies in its operations,” concluded Mr Cossey.

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#### About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia (CropLife) is the peak industry organisation representing the agricultural chemical and biotechnology (plant science) sector in Australia. CropLife represents the innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and agricultural biotechnology products. The plant science industry provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies that are key to the nation’s agricultural productivity, sustainability and food security. The plant science industry is worth more than \$17.6 billion a year to the Australian economy and directly employs thousands of people across the country. CropLife and its members are committed to the stewardship of their products throughout their lifecycle and to ensuring that human health, environment and trade issues associated with agricultural chemical use in Australia are responsibly and sustainably managed. Our member companies spend more than \$13 million a year on stewardship activities to ensure the safe and effective use of their

products. CropLife ensures the responsible use of these products through its mandatory industry code of conduct and has set a benchmark for industry stewardship through programs such as **drumMUSTER**, ChemClear® and Agsafe Accreditation and Training. Our stewardship activities demonstrate our commitment to managing the impacts associated with container waste and unwanted chemicals.

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