



MEDIA STATEMENT

60 MINUTES TV PROGRAM ON GLYPHOSATE – DISCUSSION MUST BE BASED ON FACTS AND SCIENCE

8 September 2019 (Canberra) – Agricultural chemicals, including glyphosate, are some of the most regulated products in the world.

The world's most advanced, independent and scientifically-competent regulators have assessed and reassessed glyphosate and declared it to be safe.

In 2016 the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) comprehensively reviewed the International Agency for Research on Cancer's glyphosate report and found no grounds for glyphosate's approved uses to be reassessed.

In May 2019 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reaffirmed the safety of glyphosate, finding it is not a carcinogen. Their Glyphosate Proposed Interim Decision found there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label.

In January this year, Health Canada re-confirmed their position that glyphosate is safe saying, "Our scientists left no stone unturned in conducting this review."

The European Food Safety Authority has stated, "Glyphosate is not classified or proposed to be classified as carcinogenic or toxic..."

The US Agricultural Health Study has been running since 1993 looking specifically at the risk between glyphosate exposure and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. In that time investigators from the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have comprehensively analysed data from over 89,000 farmers and their spouses. They have found no association between glyphosate and non-Hodgkin lymphoma – regardless of the exposure level.

In Australia, the APVMA undertakes a comprehensive pre-market risk assessment of all agricultural chemicals, ensuring they are safe for use and for the environment, before they can be made available. The APVMA takes new data and scientific information into account when considering the ongoing safety of a registered product.

APVMA approved label directions for all weed management tools must comply with regulatory requirements. This includes information regarding best management practices to be employed during use.

The hysteria surrounding the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) monograph on glyphosate is unfounded. IARC only plays the limited role of advising regulatory bodies on potential hazards, allowing the relevant regulatory agencies to assess if there are any associated risks and manage them appropriately.

Furthermore, following an investigation by the international news organisation, Reuters, it was found that IARC edited out studies confirming glyphosate's non-carcinogenic status. The integrity of the IARC process was completely compromised and it is ethically questionable for those involved in that process to continue to mislead, misinform and seek to falsely scare the public regarding the monograph on glyphosate.

It's human nature that when someone is diagnosed with cancer, they want to find an answer to their question, why me? However, accepting a false but convenient answer as opposed to finding out the actual cause serves no one.

The Australian community should not be misled by those involved in what amounts to nothing more than a deception to assist US tort law firms.

While we have great sympathy for anyone with cancer, it's important that these debates are undertaken on science and actual data.

These chemical products play a critical role in safe food production and environmentally sustainable farming practices in Australia and around the world.

The community has a right to be informed about glyphosate, but it's crucial they are informed by the independent experts.

For more information visit: croplife.org.au/glyphosate

Statement attributable to: Matthew Cossey, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife Australia

About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia is the national peak industry organisation representing the plant science sector in Australia. CropLife's members are the world-leading innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and crop biotechnology products. The plant science industry, worth more than \$20 billion a year to Australian agricultural production, provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies key to the nation's agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability. CropLife is part of the plant science industry's 91 country international federation.

