



HeadsUp
A COMMENTARY
ON INDUSTRY ISSUES



Confidential

CropLife members only

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Victorian lockdown ends after circuit breaker deemed successful

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has announced Victoria will move to revised COVID-Normal restrictions following circuit breaker action which has managed the latest outbreak.

Offices will be capped at no more than 50 per cent of a workforce on-site. This will likely increase to 75 per cent from Saturday 27 February, subject to health advice. For workplaces with fewer than 40 staff, up to 20 staff are allowed onsite. All workplaces require a COVIDSafe plan to be in place to have staff onsite.

The Statement from the Premier and full restriction details are [available online](#) and on CropLife's [COVID webpage](#).

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Great Barrier Reef report card shows promise

The Reef Water Quality Report Card 2019 has been released. The report card seeks to measure progress towards the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan. It assesses management practice adoption, catchment condition, pollutant (sediment, nutrient and pesticide) run-off and marine condition.

Overall, the results appear promising, with improvements across the board. For pesticides specifically, the Kolan catchment (Burnett Mary region) met the target of protecting at least 99 per cent of aquatic species with the Pioneer catchment (Mackay Whitsunday region) recording the greatest improvement up 4.5 per cent to 80.5 per cent of aquatic species protected.

Across the Reef, 97.2 per cent of aquatic species are protected from pesticides. This is an extremely promising result toward the ambitious goal of protecting 99 per cent of aquatic species.

CropLife Australia will continue to work with QLD ag bodies to ensure our industry stewardship initiatives are properly recognised and uptake in farming best practice management programs continues to grow, to

avoid misplaced regulatory responses in this area.

View the full report card [online](#).

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Parliamentary Committee report on litigation funding

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services recently tabled its inquiry report into whether the present level of regulation applying to Australia's growing class action industry is impacting fair and equitable outcomes for plaintiffs. The full report, including executive summary is [available online](#).

This Inquiry follows the Federal Government commissioning the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to conduct a comprehensive review of class action proceedings and third-party litigation funders back in December 2017. The full report containing 24 recommendations is [available online](#).

The Federal Government did not take any immediate action following the ALRC's report. The Federal Treasurer did, however, announce in May 2020 that litigation funders would be required to hold an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) and comply with the managed investment scheme regime under the Corporations Act 2001. This was before the Parliamentary Committee undertook its Inquiry.

Further changes are expected following consideration of the Parliamentary Committee.

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