



Confidential

CropLife members only

APVMA Streamlining and Board Bill passes

The Senate has today passed the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Board and Other Improvements) Bill 2019* bringing about minor but important measures that have been long-awaited by the Australian plant science and farming sectors.

CropLife Australia has long advocated for the measures contained in the bill, which passed the House of Representatives in February of 2018, as it contains a range of crucial measures for our members. In 2018 the Federal Government moved an amendment to its own Bill once it was introduced to the Senate, which added a governance board for the APVMA. At that time the Government refused to provide funding for it despite the APVMA's previous board being abolished in 2007 after a comprehensive independent review. The Bill has been successfully held up by CropLife's advocacy for nearly four years to force the Government to provide funding and make our recommended changes.

CropLife does not, in principle, oppose governance structures like boards, but does oppose unnecessary initiatives that impose extra costs on the farming sector and supporting industries. However, extensive CropLife advocacy has ensured extra security regarding the integrity and independence of the science-based technical assessments of the APVMA through consideration of the makeup, structure and process of appointing members of the governance board.

CropLife has also secured an initial \$1 million in government funds for the establishment costs of the board and the operational costs for the first two years. Despite this, CropLife remains disappointed that the government has not committed to permanent ongoing funding for the board and will continue pursuing the Federal Government and Opposition for commitments to permanently fund the board. Current commitments total \$600k for the first year of establishment and running, and \$400k for the following year.

Read our full media release [online](#).

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