



## THE LATEST PLANT SCIENCE INDUSTRY NEWS

### From the CEO

**The current focus of the Federal Government on productivity could not come at a more critical time, particularly for Australian agriculture.**



**Matthew Cossey**  
Chief Executive Officer, CropLife Australia

**CropLife acknowledges the original farmers and custodians of the lands we live on.**

This is not just a challenge for the private sector. The efficiency, or lack thereof, within government departments and agencies remains one of the greatest barriers to improving productivity across the broader economy.

With barely half of pesticide applications approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) within statutory timeframes, a farming productivity drought looms without action.

Over recent decades, access to new plant science innovations has been one of the primary drivers of productivity and sustainability in Australian agriculture. These technologies will be even more vital in the years ahead to ensure farming remains viable, profitable and environmentally sustainable.

Yet continued delays in assessment times at the APVMA risk denying farmers access to an entire generation of innovation. CropLife is calling on the APVMA Board to take immediate action to prevent a future crisis in our production and international competitiveness.

Farming productivity benefits every Australian. It helps ease cost-of-living pressures at the supermarket, strengthens the economy, makes farming more sustainable and boosts global competitiveness. Farmers depend on access to technology that enables productivity growth, allowing them to adapt to climate change, minimise their carbon footprint, and reduce pressure on our natural environment without compromising food security.

On top of the current dismal performance of the APVMA, the Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care is now in its seventh year of what should have been an 18-month process to modernise Australia's national biotechnology framework.

These delays highlight how poor government productivity directly limits the ability of industry to deliver innovation that drives productivity. Improving public-sector efficiency would have a multiplier effect across the entire economy, beginning with the sector that feeds the nation.