



Crop  
PROTECTION

# Crop Protection

## Productivity drought looms without action

**"Productivity" has been the word of 2025. But after months of consultation, the Productivity Commission has delivered a blunt warning: Australia won't lift productivity chasing shiny new things while ignoring the basics of effective regulation.**

In its interim report *Creating a more dynamic and resilient economy*, the Commission identified regulatory red tape as one of the biggest obstacles to attracting investment necessary to drive productivity in the Australian economy. It called for sweeping reforms to scrap duplicate rules and overhaul overly prescriptive, risk-averse regulations that are strangling business investment.

CropLife members are copping the brunt of this failure with the sector warning that the continued delays in assessment times at the APVMA risks causing a long-term productivity drought for the nation's farming sector.

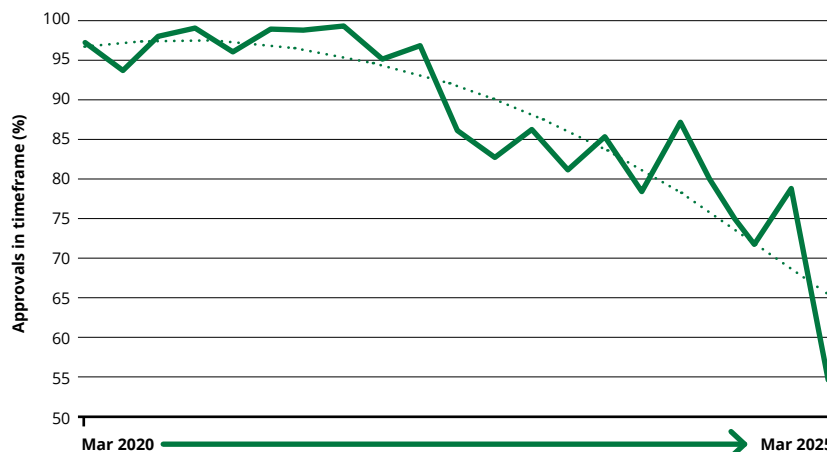
Barely half of the applications for new, innovative crop protection products are being assessed within their legislated assessment timeframe, and many are delayed by more than 18 months. In fact, current delays for CropLife member products alone add up to a combined total of nearly 40 years.

These are not arbitrary targets. Every delay means farmers are denied access to the latest technologies that improve productivity and sustainability. For farmers, it's the difference between having the tools to protect their crops this season or not, compared to their international competitors.

Despite this, the APVMA Board reduced expectations rather than lift the Regulator's efficiency in its latest Corporate Plan, entrenching a culture of underperformance.

Bureaucratic bottlenecks make for good satire, but it is unfortunate that the greatest inhibitors to productivity in Australian agriculture are some government departments, agencies and regulators. Until government and regulators confront their own systems and inefficiencies, red tape will keep costing Australia far more than it is worth.

### APVMA processing timeframes in free-fall



**Approval timeframes have plummeted since 2022 with barely half of assessments currently being completed on time.**