

19 January 2017

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The Secretary
Budget Policy Division
Department of the Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

On behalf of CropLife Australia, I provide the attached submission in response to the Minister for Small Business, the Hon. Michael McCormack's, call for submissions to the 2017-18 Budget.

This submission identifies those areas where additional investment by government or policy decisions are required to ensure Australia's regulatory system for agricultural chemicals and agricultural biotechnology is resilient to change, can rapidly respond to emerging agricultural issues and facilitate the ability of Australian farmers to compete in global markets.

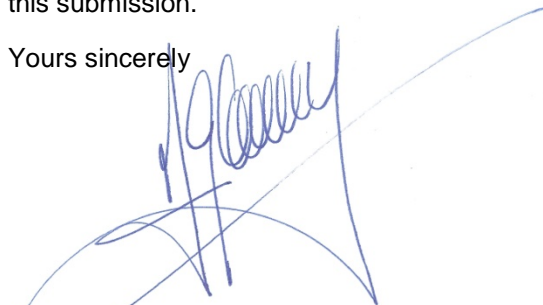
The Government's decision to relocate the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), in its current form and in isolation, will not deliver a net benefit to the efficient operations of the regulator, the plant science industry or the Australian farming sector. Structural changes and fully funded initiatives as outlined in this submission are required to successfully deliver benefit to the Australian farming sector.

The issues and recommendations outlined in this submission all go to the long-term growth and sustainability of Australia's plant science industry, which is a crucial support sector to Australia's farmers. The economic imperative of our industry in supporting Australia's farmers was highlighted through analysis by Deloitte Access Economics in their 2013 report entitled *Economic Activity Attributable to Crop Protection Products*, a copy of which is attached for your information and reference. Most importantly, it notes that nearly \$18 billion of agricultural productivity is directly attributable to our industry's products.

Genetically modified (GM) crops are also proving to be a crucial part of Australia's agricultural success. Australia is experiencing the economic, agronomic and environmental benefits of the adoption of agricultural biotechnologies and our farmers have gained AUD\$1.37 billion in additional farm income benefits over the past 20 years from the use of GM crops (for reference please find attached *Adoption and impact of GM crops in Australia: 20 years' experience*). A Government-led information campaign along with a refreshed National Biotechnology Strategy will map the way forward for biotechnology policy in Australia while providing business security to enable ongoing innovation. Ensuring an efficient regulatory system for such new technologies is crucial if the nation is to take full advantage of the benefits of these innovations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarification or elaboration in respect to any aspect of this submission.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Cossey
Chief Executive Officer