

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Ag Media
Sent: Tuesday, 5 November 2024 4:49 PM
To: s 47F(1) ; Ag Media
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: RE: Media Enquiry about Owls, rodenticide and the APVMA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F(1),

Please see below a proposed response to this inquiry:

- The APVMA is an independent statutory authority. Its regulatory decisions are made independently, without influence by the Minister. The Minister is responsible for setting Commonwealth Policy for agvet chemicals. The Minister also issues a Statement of Expectations and, where necessary and as appropriate, Ministerial directions to the APVMA Board and/or the APVMA. The Minister also appoints the APVMA Board.
- The APVMA is a global leader in risk-based agvet chemical regulation. The APVMA approved anti-coagulant rodenticides have been assessed as safe when used according to label instructions or permit conditions. I am aware the APVMA is reviewing anti-coagulant rodenticides to ensure the approved uses remain safe, and that this decision is expected by July 2025.

You may wish to include the following also for use on background:

- An agricultural or veterinary chemical cannot be legally manufactured, imported, supplied, sold, or used in Australia, unless it is registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The APVMA's registration process involves scientific evaluation to ensure the chemical is safe (in terms of worker/consumer health and environment/animal/crop safety), efficacious and not a threat to international trade. Commercial interests are not part of the legislative criteria and are therefore not considered by the APVMA.

Please let me know if you have any comments or concerns.

Many thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Communications and Media Branch

P: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E: media@aff.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: s 47F(1) @aff.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 November 2024 1:44 PM
To: Ag Media <Media@aff.gov.au>

Cc: s 47F(1)

@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Subject: FW: Media Enquiry about Owls, rodenticide and the APVMA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi – would it be possible to get a draft response to the below enquiry? By middle of tomorrow.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s 47F(1) @curtin.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2024 4:27 PM
To: Media Collins <Media.Collins@aff.gov.au>
Cc: s 47F(1) @postgrad.curtin.edu.au>; s 47F(1) (Student)
 <s 47F(1) @postgrad.curtin.edu.au>; s 47F(1) (Student)
 <s 47F(1) @postgrad.curtin.edu.au>; s 47F(1) (Student)
 <s 47F(1) @postgrad.curtin.edu.au>
Subject: Media Enquiry about Owls, rodenticide and the APVMA

You don't often get email from s 47F(1) @curtin.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Minister Collins,

We are working as a class of post-graduate journalism students on an investigation into the impact of rodenticides on owls and other wildlife.

The story we are doing includes interviews with local governments, toxicologists, environmental scientists and filmmakers.

Our investigation led us to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). (And we have noted today's media release about ongoing reform of the APVMA).

In response to our questions last week the APVMA has admitted to being 7 months behind the schedule set out in their own regulations, in regards to its reassessment of rodenticides. In addition they said they are anticipating further delays, while still expecting to make a declaration on August 1, 2025.

One of the experts we interviewed this afternoon said he thought the APVMA was using stalling tactics as there are businesses who would take a hit if the products were banned.

We would like to ask you as Minister for Agriculture:

1. Should commercial interests in selling pesticides override environmental concerns that include potential extinctions?
2. What sway do you have, as Minister for Agriculture, over the APVMA?
3. Are you concerned about the delays in making a ruling on this matter, and the harm being done?

We look forward to hearing your responses. We are expecting to finish this investigation in the next week and we will be offering it to major media outlets.

Best regards,

s 47F(1) and the rest of the class.

FYI: This was the email the APVMA sent us this morning, we responded asking them a follow up question.

Hi s 47F(1)

Thank you for your enquiry.

Please find below a statement attributable to a spokesperson for the APVMA:

// The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is the independent statutory authority responsible for assessing and registering agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals proposed for supply in Australia.

Notice of the reconsideration of anticoagulant rodenticides under section 32(1) of the Agvet Code was sent to affected holders of product registrations and label approvals, and active constituent approvals on 2

November 2021. Notice of the reconsideration was also published in the [APVMA Gazette](#) of 2 November 2021 and included details on how to submit information to be considered as part of the reconsideration.

The period for submission of information to be assessed under this reconsideration closed on 2 February 2022, and the assessment phase commenced. In the regulations, the calculation for the overall time for reconsideration is set out, and the period for assessments to be completed is 26 months which commenced from 2 February 2022. Following the completion of the assessments, the proposed regulatory decision will be prepared. The APVMA will not be in a position to make any comments on the assessments until the publication of the proposed regulatory decision.

While the proposed regulatory decision for anticoagulant rodenticides was proposed for release in December 2024, it is now forecast to be released in February 2025, however this may be further delayed due to the complexity of ongoing assessments, including ensuring consideration of recently published studies which may impact the overall recommendations. The APVMA maintains a watching brief on published literature to continue to inform the review. The proposed decision will be followed by a 3-month public consultation phase where the public and stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide comment and ask questions on the underlying scientific assessments. The APVMA is committed to finalising this reconsideration by the due date of 1 August 2025.\

Kind regards

Media Team

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

Also this is a link to an article on The Conversation describing the kind of harm our article will be talking about.

<https://theconversation.com/rat-poison-is-killing-our-beloved-native-owls-and-tawny-frogmouths-and-thats-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-212184>

s 47F(1)

BA Hons, Masters, PhD

Lecturer | Journalism

Curtin University

Tel | s 47F(1)

Email | s 47F(1) [@curtin.edu.au](mailto:s47f1@curtin.edu.au)

Web | <http://curtin.edu.au>



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 5 November 2024 3:56 PM
To: Ag Media
Cc: Bursle, Guy; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: MEDIA INQUIRY - Due 11am Wednesday: APVMA and impact of rodenticides on owls and other wildlife - Curtin University journalism postgraduate students [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: FW: Media Enquiry about Owls, rodenticide and the APVMA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi media team

Our proposed answers to the three questions below. This has been cleared by Guy Bursle.

- An agricultural or veterinary chemical cannot be legally manufactured, imported, supplied, sold, or used in Australia, unless it is registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The APVMA's registration process involves scientific evaluation to ensure the chemical is safe (in terms of worker/consumer health and environment/animal/crop safety), efficacious and not a threat to international trade. Commercial interests are not part of the legislative criteria and are therefore not considered by the APVMA.
- The APVMA is an independent statutory authority. Its regulatory decisions are made independently, without influence by the Minister. The Minister is responsible for setting Commonwealth Policy for agvet chemicals. The Minister also issues a Statement of Expectations and, where necessary and as appropriate, Ministerial directions to the APVMA Board and/or the APVMA. The Minister also appoints the APVMA Board.
- The APVMA is a global leader in risk-based agvet chemical regulation. The APVMA approved anti-coagulant rodenticides have been assessed as safe when used according to label instructions or permit conditions. I am aware the APVMA is reviewing anti-coagulant rodenticides to ensure the approved uses remain safe, and that this decision is expected by July 2025.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Agvet Chemicals Policy | Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii) | s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: Ag Media <Media@aff.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 November 2024 2:38 PM
To: Bursle, Guy <Guy.Bursle@aff.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au>
Cc: Ag Media <Media@aff.gov.au>
Subject: MEDIA INQUIRY - Due 11am Wednesday: APVMA and impact of rodenticides on owls and other wildlife - Curtin University journalism postgraduate students

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

We've had the following media inquiry regarding Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and the impact of rodenticides on owls and other wildlife.

A group of **postgraduate journalism students from Curtin University** would like to know:

- Should commercial interests in selling pesticides override environmental concerns that include potential extinctions?
- What sway does the Minister for Agriculture have over the APVMA?
- Are there concerns about the delays in making a ruling on this matter, and the harm being done?

We suggest the following as a response: "APVMA is a statutory authority with the independence to make these important regulatory decisions".

The students are expecting to finish this investigation in the next week and will be offering it to major media outlets.

If you could please come back to us by 11am tomorrow, that would be much appreciated.

I have attached the students' original inquiry and their recent response from APVMA on this issue.

Please let me know if you have any comments or concerns.

Many thanks,
s 22(1)(a)(ii) (she/her)

Media

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Communications and Media Branch

P: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** | E: media@aff.gov.au

OFFICIAL