



RICK WILSON MP

Federal Member for O'Connor



MEDIA RELEASE

Reducing agricultural red tape

27 May 2014: Federal Member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson MP, has supported reducing red tape throughout the agricultural industry by commending the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 in his speech in Parliament this week.

The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 will remove the regular re-approval and re-registration requirements of chemical products as currently stipulated in the 2013 Amendment Act introduced by the previous Labor government.

Mr Wilson said that the Amendment Bill will reduce the administrative burden on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), a self-funded organisation, whose main purpose is to register and regulate the chemistries and medicines in use in Australia such that they are not harmful to humans, animals or the environment.

"Without this Bill, it is estimated the increased costs to the APVMA to administer re-registration and re-approvals will be \$2 million in 2015-16. For a self-funded organisation, that's astronomical.

"Increased costs to APVMA will also see flow-on effects throughout the chemical supply chain from manufacturers to wholesalers to retailers and ultimately farmers which the agricultural industry does not need.

"This Bill will also detract from the important job the APVMA does in ensuring human and animal health and safety, as well as positive environmental outcomes," he said.

In O'Connor there are a variety of agricultural industries that will benefit from the Bill including pastoralists in the Goldfields, grain growers in the Wheatbelt, sheep and cattle farmers in the Great Southern, grape growers in the Mt Barker, Frankland and Pemberton wine regions, dairy farmers in Walpole/Northcliffe and horticulturalists and truffle farmers surrounding Manjimup.

"Each and every one of these O'Connor's farmers has the right to maximise their productivity, unimpeded by restricted access to necessary chemistries and veterinary medicines, and at a price competitive with their overseas counterparts.

"In the European Union, they have identified that their regulators have been overwhelmed with the excessive administrative burden this type of legislation has imposed. In addition, no cost-benefit analysis or any other evidence has been presented to suggest this reform would deliver any net benefit."

The Bill will build on the Coalitions promise to reduce \$1 billion of red and green tape and build the productivity and prosperity of Australia's great agricultural economy.

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