



Hon Jaala Pulford MP

Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Regional Development

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Mr Stephen Targett
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Ref: MIN004629



Dear Mr Targett

CHEMICAL LABELLING

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2015 regarding chemical labelling.

The Victorian Government recognises the importance of bees to primary production in Victoria. The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) allocates significant resources to ensuring that the potential risks posed by agricultural chemical use to bees are minimised. I welcome the role your association plays in achieving this shared objective.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is responsible for registering agricultural chemicals for use in Australia. The registration process includes a detailed risk assessment and the development of a product label that meets the requirements of the APVMA's labelling code. Specific concerns regarding the details of labelling processes and requirements should be addressed to the APVMA directly on (02) 6210 4701 or enquiries@apvma.gov.au.

In Victoria, there are strong regulatory controls under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*. Controls include requirements that chemicals must be used in accordance with specified elements of the product label. For example, users must comply with any specific label statements prohibiting their use (e.g. DO NOT statements).

DEDJTR is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act in Victoria. Reports of chemical misuse are treated seriously and are investigated to determine compliance with the Act. Users found to be non-compliant with the Act are sanctioned in accordance with the department's compliance policy. Such sanctions may include criminal prosecution under the Act.

For further information about the regulation of chemical use in Victoria or to report any incidents of chemical misuse, please contact Mr Steven Field, Statewide Specialist Chemicals at DEDJTR on (03) 5430 4463.

Thank you for raising this matter with the government.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Agriculture

10 AUG 2015

