Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Review of agvet chemicals regulatory framework

Issues arising from stakeholder consultation with industry groups

Meeting held on 11 June 2020

- Stakeholders were generally supportive of using acceptable overseas data to enable Australia to have increased access to niche chemical products that are not available here. It was identified that introducing new products in the Australian marketplace may assist in reducing resistance issues, for example, but stakeholders do not support a blanket approach to registering overseas products.
- There was concern over the removal of efficacy as an assessment criterion due to potential impacts on animal welfare and biosecurity. Stakeholders also referred to the potential impacts on consumer confidence and social licence if efficacy is no longer assessed.
- When discussing building on Australia's national capacity for technical assessors, stakeholders highlighted the high cost of retaining accreditation and how this could impact on a willingness to become and stay an accredited assessor.
- Attendees discussed the existing permit regime; specifically, emergency use permits and the length of time it takes for these to be approved. Industry indicated that it would be beneficial to have greater clarity relating to the criteria for what constitutes an emergency use.
- Stakeholders questioned the value of potentially moving to a TGA style listing system given the APVMA already has the ability to rely on standards and listings. It was noted however, that both methods are currently underutilised.
- There was discussion about whether registration costs should be recovered from fees for pre-market assessment, or from levies. Stakeholders noted the impacts on smaller, more niche products and how upfront fees may act as a deterrent to them being brought to market.
- Stakeholders agreed they wanted national harmonisation of control of use, specifically in relation to registered veterinarians' ability to supply restricted medicines to other veterinarians to actively manage animal welfare issues.
- It was stated that the current situation, under most control of use arrangements, that requires veterinary prescription on the basis of a single animal, is prohibited in the intensive poultry sector where it is common to need to treat all birds within a shed concurrently.
- It was acknowledged that residue testing of produce needed to increase but were not sure where the responsibility for this should lie. It was stated that the current industry schemes (e.g., FreshTest, supermarket chains) should be standardised.