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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Fears of increased pesticide dumping and public health burden on Australians**

The Draft Report by the Independent Panel appointed to review the regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemicals is proposing *speedier, easier access* to more imported pesticides.

After decades of Western Australians raising concerns about the polluting and toxic effects of pesticides, particularly in urban areas, any proposal to roll out the red carpet to more pesticides would further undermine community confidence and place our environment and public health at even greater risk. With numerous independent scientific reports raising concerns about pesticide-related health risks such as endocrine disruption, cancers, birth defects, sterility, obesity, neurological and autoimmune disorders, we can only question the independence of the Panel and the Government's push for deregulation.

Stakeholder groups including scientists, doctors, veterinarians and community networks provided submissions and feedback raising many health and environmental concerns and yet, the Panel favours reducing red tape to increase the size of the Australian market for pesticides. This is contrary to the precautionary principle and best practice. It is anomalous that the APVMA is funded by a levy proportional to product sales unlike other regulatory bodies. Warnings on product labels simply do not protect our land and its inhabitants from the polluting and toxic effects of these poisons once released into the environment.

We urge the Chief Health Officer and the Ministers for Agriculture, Health and Environment to exercise due diligence and duty of care when considering the risks and foreseeable harm to humans, animals and the environment. We invite concerned citizens to sign the new petition on the parliamentary website: <https://www.aph.gov.au/e-petitions/petition/EN2458>

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