



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

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Dear Dr Bleaney

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 November 2011 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, regarding monitoring of glyphosate levels in river waters in Tasmania and regulation of atrazine and related triazines in Australia. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

I note your particular concern that Agricultural, Silvicultural and Veterinary Chemicals Council (ASCHEM) have directed the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Tasmania not to monitor glyphosate levels in the river water pesticide monitoring program. I note that the Commonwealth has no role in this issue and that you have referred it to the Tasmanian government.

The basis for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA's) decision to continue the registration of atrazine and related products is set out in its review report dated March 2008. This report can be downloaded from the APVMA website: (http://apvma.gov.au/products/review/docs/atrazine_finalMay08.pdf).

I note that you also wrote to Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, in whose portfolio the APVMA is placed. In this context should you wish to discuss concerns relating to regulation of these or other chemicals used for agricultural or veterinary purposes, the APVMA is the most appropriate government body to contact directly, on their telephone enquiry line, their web site or by post, as below:

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
PO Box 6182
KINGSTON ACT 2604
Tel: (02) 6210 4700
URL: www.apvma.gov.au

Thank you for writing regarding these issues. I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Barden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graeme Barden
Assistant Secretary
Office of Chemical Safety
30 November 2011