



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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APVMA DECISION ON PARAQUAT SET TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT GROWERS

Member for Grey Tom Venning MP has thrown his support behind Grain Producers SA (GPSA) in questioning the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA) decision to impose significant new restrictions on paraquat use. The ruling introduces significant reductions in application rates and stringent new compliance obligations, striking a blow to growers in their fight against herbicide resistant weeds.

Despite strong industry advocacy securing the retention of some specific uses, such as optical spot spraying and pulse crop spray-topping, the overarching restrictions leave farmers in a vulnerable position. As highlighted by GPSA, paraquat remains essential for managing herbicide-resistant weeds like annual ryegrass, and regulators have enforced these sweeping changes without providing a practical, effective, and economically viable alternative for the state's broadacre cropping industry at large.

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning Member for Grey

"Paraquat is an important instrument in today's modern, no-till farming systems, and reducing its application rates without providing a viable and cost-effective alternative is an irresponsible and short-sighted blow to our agricultural sector."

"It is reasonable for governments to want to find the safest possible crop protection tools, but it is unreasonable to pull the rug out from under our farmers before practical, affordable, and commercially available alternatives are on the market."

"Farmers and industry pushed hard to keep optical spot spraying and spray-topping, and thankfully, that paid off in the APVMA's decision. But nobody really knows how these new, lower spray rates are actually going to play out in the paddock."

"GPSA's survey showed that 96 per cent of grain producers think restrictions will have a negative impact on their businesses. At a time when cost pressures are substantial, limiting weed control, and impacting pre-harvest crop desiccation is harsh."

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