



Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-612921
Your Ref: Petition No 121

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr ^{Simon}O'Brien

Thank you for your letter dated 23 June 2016 enclosing a copy of a petition recently tabled in the Legislative Council by the Hon Lynn McLaren MLC, requesting the establishment of a Royal Commission into the use of pesticides in Western Australia.

As you know, pesticide management in Western Australia was the subject of a review and report by the Auditor General as recently as June 2015. I note that both the Departments of Health and Agriculture and Food each welcomed the findings of the Auditor General's Report and, since the Report's release, have undertaken further work to address its recommendations.

I am keen to give the responsible State agencies the opportunity to have time for their responses to the Report's recommendations to take hold and strengthen the current risk based approach to checking pesticide compliance. The Public Accounts Committee will monitor that work and ensure the Report's recommendations are implemented.

I also note that pesticides are registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The APVMA is the national independent statutory authority with regulatory responsibility for agricultural and veterinary chemicals up to the point of retail sale. APVMA determines, through a detailed assessment process, that a chemical is safe to users, consumers, the environment and trade, before it is registered for use in Australia. Once registered, the APVMA can review the approval of chemical products at any time. Therefore any concerns about potentially harmful pesticide products are best addressed by the APVMA and the national process for agricultural and veterinary chemicals regulation reform.

With a national Authority responsible for approving the use of pesticides in place and the Auditor General's overall findings with respect to pesticide management in Western Australia in mind, I cannot support the establishment of a State based Royal Commission into this issue.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA
PREMIER

1 - AUG 2016

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