



## THE LATEST PLANT SCIENCE INDUSTRY NEWS

### From the CEO

**The recently released National Food Security Preparedness Green Paper developed by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has declared that food security is as important as defence in protecting Australia's national security.**



**Matthew Cossey**  
Chief Executive Officer, CropLife Australia

**CropLife acknowledges the original farmers and custodians of the lands we live on.**

CropLife Australia partnered with ASPI to see this critical work come to life and has welcomed the report's urgent call for proactive measures. Without such actions, Australia faces an agricultural policy and production crisis within a decade. This is something that CropLife Australia has sought to highlight over many years.

The Green Paper highlights the fragility of Australia's food system, which relies on 'just-in-time' supply chains and faces threats from global shocks, climate change, and rising inequality. It stresses the importance of maintaining access to essential tools like modern crop protection products and agricultural biotechnologies, warning against regulatory risks that could leave farmers without the means to protect crops and improve productivity and sustainability.

Our agricultural productivity, not only feeds Australians but is also the basis of the food trade with our neighbours that supports our regional stability. It relies on our farmers having access to technologies that science has demonstrated are used safely. Unnecessary calls to remove these tools, combined with current policy settings that restrict access to innovative alternatives, risk sleepwalking Australia into an agricultural policy and production crisis.

Europe's ongoing struggle with food security provides an important warning of the consequences if we keep removing safe and effective agricultural chemical innovations. Likewise, new technologies are essential to help farmers and environmental land managers tackle emerging threats and better manage longstanding issues.

Strengthening Australia's self-sufficiency and protecting its farmers from global shocks requires access to global innovation, incentives for domestic manufacturing, diversified and de-risked supply chains, and streamlined, science-based regulation.

The plant science industry has welcomed the Government's election commitment to develop a strategic approach to food security in its Feeding Australia strategy; however, this commitment should not be used as an excuse for delaying actions that can be taken now.

Key initiatives include supporting the APVMA with Government funding to perform public good functions; reforming its minor use chemical access program to enable high-value horticulture to benefit from the latest innovations of the plant science industry; and urgently implementing long-overdue reforms to Australia's gene technology framework (after a ridiculous seven year process by the Department of Health) to drive greater productivity and sustainability across the farming sector.