



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

FILE No:

DOC:

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3-5 NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

The General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Sir

#### **AGSAFE LIMITED – APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Agsafe Limited (Agsafe) application for revocation of its existing authorisations and substitution of a new authorisation for its Code of Conduct.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is currently undertaking a review of hazardous materials. The first of these reviews was on security-sensitive ammonium nitrate (SSAN), which was completed in 2004. A review of chemicals of security concern is currently underway. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is leading this work, as stated in Section 4(e) on page 13 of the Public Interest Impact Statement enclosed with Agsafe's application for authorisation.

PM&C supports Agsafe's application for authorisation of the Code of Conduct and associated Guardian Program. To date, the Guardian Program has been aimed at improving safety management in the agricultural and veterinary chemical industry and facilitating regulatory compliance; however, it has the potential to provide security benefits.

Whilst the outcomes of the COAG chemical review will not be known for some time, it is very likely to involve partnership between governments and the chemical industry in achieving the desired security outcomes. To this end, CropLife Australia and Animal Health Alliance are represented on an Industry Consultation Group formed to gauge initial views from industry regarding the chemical review.

PM&C recognises the potential of the Guardian Program to provide security benefits, particularly around awareness-raising, education and training throughout the supply chain, especially where regulatory approaches may be neither appropriate nor practical.



In the case of the SSAN review, Agsafe, together with the Australian fertilizer industry, was active in providing security advice to the agricultural retail industry prior to the regulatory arrangements for SSAN being finalised. The security guidelines contributed to the industry's understanding of ways to provide a more secure environment. The chemical review will examine the Agsafe Code of Conduct and the Guardian Program to determine their suitability for dealing with chemicals of security concern.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Agsafe authorisation of its Code of Conduct and the Guardian Program.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Floyd', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Rob Floyd  
Assistant Secretary  
Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Security Branch  
National Security Division

19 January 2007