



MEDIA RELEASE
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Cost recovery increases must lead to better service

Industry will support higher government fees, but only if the extra money is used to fix chronic under-staffing and low wages.

That is the key point in Agcarm's submission on the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) proposal to increase regulatory fees.

Agcarm chief executive Graeme Peters says "Agcarm members rely on the MPI to approve the registration of crop protection and animal health products. Complaints about under-staffing and delays have reached a crescendo in the past year. This cannot go on.

"For this reason alone, we will support paying more. The Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Group at the MPI is critical to our industry, and we have said many times in recent months that the level of resourcing at ACVM is not enough for the existing and future workload.

"The crop protection and animal health industry pays for a service which it can only purchase from the government. Clearly we are stuck with a monopoly model and we are prepared to fund it so it can improve, but we will strongly oppose any attempt by the government to take our higher fees and put them in other areas unrelated to ACVM."

In a submission to MPI, which wants to increase its regulatory fees, Agcarm said that crop protection and veterinary medicine applications must be dealt with efficiently by qualified and adequately resourced government officials.

The reality is that without a capable regulator, growth across the primary sector will be affected.

Modern crop protection and animal health products are designed to increase yields, reduce losses, and improve the overall health of crops and animals. Roadblocks to new technology will hold back New Zealand from its goal of doubling exports by 2025.

- [Submission to MPI on proposed revisions to cost recovery regimes](#)

About Agcarm

Agcarm is the industry association of companies which manufacture and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Member companies are committed to ensuring that these products are used safely, effectively and sustainably.

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