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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## Funding increases to lift government performance

Agcarm applauds the Government for dedicating extra resourcing to the processing of agrichemical products.

By accepting fee increases, the crop protection and animal health sector are backing the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in their vital role as gatekeeper of agrichemical products. The increase will address inefficiencies and delays at the MPI that are constricting the availability of animal medicines and crop protection products, including those with softer chemistries.

Agcarm chief executive, Mark Ross said that the extra resource is a step in the right direction, but wants accountability from the MPI. "Our members have agreed to an 11 percent increase in annual fees, as well as increases for other services in this area. In return, we want a system of benchmarking applications. Industry requires a faster and more consistent service in return for their financial support," he says.

It is essential that New Zealand farmers and growers have access to the latest technology and products for maintaining the health of animals and crops. Access to this technology allows farmers to keep up with international counterparts in the production of food.

Agcarm has been working with Government to resolve the issue of under-resourcing after industry feedback strongly stated that registration services were well below par. MPI addressed these concerns by proposing to employ extra staff. Agcarm members agreed to put their hands in their pockets to help with this.

"This is another example of industry and government working together to achieve a positive outcome for all," says Mr Ross.

### **About Agcarm**

Agcarm is the industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute 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.

**ENDS**

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