

APVMA QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE STATISTICS **Welcome overall result but targeted reform still needed**

The latest Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority's (APVMA) performance statistics released today show that 74% of all applications were approved within timeframe.

"This means the regulator is on the right path", said Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) Executive Director Ben Stapley.

"This is a significant achievement with the regulator under difficult circumstances as it prepares to relocate to Armidale. However, targeted reform is still needed to assist the APVMA meet timeframes for applications requiring major assessment.

"For the December quarter, while 71% of all veterinary medicine applications were decided within the required legislative timeframe, just 40% of major applications were determined on time," Mr Stapley said.

These types of applications are more complex and often involve innovative new technologies that benefit farmers and pet owners by offering new products to protect the health and welfare of pets and livestock.

"Better aligning regulatory burden with risk, streamlining routine variations and financial investment is needed," Mr Stapley said. "A more efficient regulatory scheme will be essential if the planned relocation to Armidale is to succeed."

Minister Littleproud has an opportunity to make a lasting impact on Australia's agricultural industries by progressing urgently needed reforms and making necessary investments in APVMA capability. This includes securing investment to modernize the APVMA's current Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems.

"Animal Medicines Australia looks forward to working with the Minister to develop a more streamlined and better resourced regulator and for the APVMA to have the tools and systems it needs to continue to improve its performance.

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Contact:
AMA Media & Communications Manager
Tirzah Anglin 0474 740 808

Animal Medicines Australia is the peak body that represents the leaders of the animal health industry in Australia. Our member companies are responsible for a range of veterinary medicine products that prevent, control and cure disease across the companion animal and livestock sectors.