

ATTN: Chief of Staff
MEDIA RELEASE
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FARMERS SHOULD PROTECT CHILDREN'S HEALTH FROM RISKY PESTICIDES

The National Toxics Network (NTN) today welcomed the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA) decision to withdraw some uses of the pesticide Fenthion.

"Fenthion has been a chemical of concern to us for many years. It's been under review by the APVMA for nearly 14 years," says NTN spokesperson Ms Jane Bremmer.

"We're surprised the APVMA has kept some uses of the pesticide on the market, but we're pleased children will be better protected from exposure to it" she said.

"A pesticide that poses a health risk to children has no place in our food and the APVMA is making the right decision for the protection of the most vulnerable section of our community, our children" she said.

"Claims by fruit growers there is no scientific evidence to support the APVMA's decision are wrong and misleading," she said.

"The APVMA have conducted an extensive review of the science and found that it's not safe for children on some crops" she said.

"Fenthion has also been banned in the United States and the European Union because of health concerns" Ms Bremmer said.

"It's not a good look for farmers to essentially be asking for permission to risk the health of children by using unsafe pesticides on their crops. They knew this decision was coming, they've had plenty of support and there are other options. They need to move on," she concluded.

For further information:

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