



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date of Release: 11 June 2013

Approved by: Cr Ken Keith Chair of Central NSW Councils

**Centroc Board object to the restrictions imposed by the
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)**

“At the recent Centroc Board meeting held at Parliament house Sydney the Centroc Board resolved to object to the restrictions imposed by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority APVMA” said Cr Ken Keith Chair of Centroc .

The Board object to the restrictions of the chemicals Fenthion, Omethoate and Dimethoate used for the control of Queensland Fruit Fly as there is no satisfactory alternative to these chemicals and their ban or restriction in eastern Australia will result in the total destruction of the Australian Fruit Industry and many vegetable industries, including tomatoes and request the Federal Government to intervene and reinstate these chemicals for use in the Australian Fruit and Vegetable industries.

“A report presented to the Board expressed that Australians import more fruit from China. We should be encouraging more production in Australia and not adding barriers.” said Cr Keith. Dimethoate and Fenthion has been used in Australia for domestic use for 60 years with no problems and has allowed home gardeners to grow fruit and vegetables without causing a major build up of Queensland Fruit Fly which will infect commercial orchards and farms.

The European Union banned the use of these products in 2001 but have now reviewed their decision and are increasing the maximum residue limits Dimethoate and Omethoate and reintroduced their use on many fruit and vegetables including stone fruit. The European Food and Safety Authority are not only re-introducing these products but are increasing the maximum residue limits by 50 to 500% as new evidence is being brought forward to support the increase.

“Overseas countries do not want Queensland Fruit Fly, therefore many of our exports need to be treated with Dimethoate before the importing country take our products.” said Cr Keith

“Farmers are not only leaving agriculture but they are being forced off the land by policy decision, such as this one, which could result in no horticultural products left in eastern Australia once this ban has been enforced” said Cr Keith.

ENDS

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