



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Agsafe's drumMUSTER stewardship program celebrates a 30 million milestone**

**15 August 2017 (Canberra)** – CropLife Australia congratulates Agsafe on the great success of its drumMUSTER stewardship program, which today celebrates a record landmark achievement, with the collection of its 30-millionth chemical container for recycling.

Agsafe, CropLife Australia's stewardship organisation, first launched its end-of-life product container recycling program drumMUSTER 18 years ago, to assist farmers and ensure chemical containers were not stored on-farm, sent to landfill, buried or burnt.

Matthew Cossey, Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia said "The collection of the 30 millionth container is a significant and important milestone and testament to the commitment of world-leading stewardship initiatives by Australia's crop protection product industry. The effort and dedication of the Agsafe team has ensured that 35,000 tonnes of materials have avoided landfill, and instead have been transformed into new products."

"The program plays an important role in our industry's whole-of-life-cycle approach to product stewardship. Collecting eligible empty and clean agricultural chemical containers from participating manufacturers provides agricultural chemical users with the tools to dispose of containers safely and sustainably. It also highlights and reinforces how important it is that farmers purchase products that are participating in the drumMUSTER program."

"DrumMUSTER is today Australia's longest running agricultural waste management program, with 814 collection sites operated by 360 councils and 142 other community-based collection agencies nationwide."

"CropLife Australia members contribute millions of dollars annually in industry stewardship activities including Agsafe's drumMUSTER, ChemClear® and Accreditation and Training programs. Agsafe's programs were established and initially funded by CropLife member companies to ensure the highest standards of safety and environmental stewardship of the industry's products. This is something CropLife and our members take great pride in and remain committed too."

"The purpose of end-of-life-cycle industry stewardship programs such as these is to ensure that users of agricultural chemicals have available to them vital tools to improve the environmental sustainability of Australian agriculture," Mr Cossey concluded.

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#### **About CropLife Australia**

CropLife Australia (CropLife) is the peak industry organisation representing the agricultural chemical and biotechnology (plant science) sector in Australia. CropLife represents the innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and agricultural biotechnology products. The plant science industry provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies that are key to the nation's agricultural productivity, sustainability and food security. The plant science industry is worth more than \$17.6 billion a year to the Australian economy and directly employs thousands of people across the country. CropLife and its members are committed to the stewardship of their products throughout their lifecycle and to ensuring that human health, environment and trade issues associated with agricultural chemical use in Australia are responsibly and sustainably managed. Our member companies contribute millions of dollars each year to stewardship activities to ensure the safe and effective use of their products. CropLife ensures the responsible use of these products through its mandatory industry code of conduct and has set a benchmark for industry stewardship through programs such as **drumMUSTER**, ChemClear® and Agsafe Accreditation and Training. Our stewardship activities demonstrate our commitment to managing the impacts associated with container waste and unwanted chemicals.

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