Why is it on the list?
Fipronil is classified as FSC Highly Hazardous due to its: **Acute toxicity to mammals and birds.**
As an insecticide Fipronil harms and/or kills mammals, birds if they come into contact with high doses of the pesticide.

Why do we still need to use it?
Fipronil is used to control grasshoppers, plague Locusts and European wasps.
Fipronil is a better alternative for early and targeted hopper control so that the use of Alpha-C can be minimised.

European Wasps are:
- A health and safety hazard and
- An environmental concern because of their effect on native bee populations

Existing alternatives, including bio-controls like Greenguard™ are more expensive and/or more hazardous to non-target species (e.g. bees).

**Additional controls**

**Notices to adjacent neighbours.**
Fipronil will not be used where bees are known to forage. For wasp control meat bait stations will be used to improve target specificity.

**Hopper control** will occur during hot periods when many waterways are mostly dry. Buffers will be applied around active waterways.

**Nutrient levels in plantations** will be monitored and managed to reduce risk of hopper predation.

**The search for an alternative**
Wasps and hoppers are a significant pest for Australia’s agricultural sector. As such a large amount of research is occurring, including:

- Australian Plague Locust Commission has a large research budget looking at alternatives to Fipronil.
- CSIRO was recently awarded $1.5 million to research new bio-controls for wasps.

For wasp control, permission will be sought for the off label use of strategically placed baits so that repeat spray applications can be avoided.

To comment please complete the [2015 FSC Highly Hazardous Pesticide Derogation Stakeholder Survey](#)