



WALGA

Influence. Support. Expertise.

Proposal to Declare Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides as Restricted Chemical Products

June 2026

About WALGA

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is an independent, member based, not for profit organisation representing and supporting the WA Local Government sector. Our membership includes all 139 Local Governments in the State.

WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities. We advocate to all levels of Government on behalf of our Members, and provide expert advice, services and support to Local Governments.

WALGA's vision is for agile and inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and enabling economic prosperity.

Acknowledgement of Country

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

Introduction

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) [Discussion Paper](#) relating to declaring second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) as restricted chemical products (RCPs). In providing this submission WALGA notes that the short timeframe for consultation prevented us from undertaking comprehensive engagement with Western Australian Local Governments. WALGA requests that longer consultation periods be provided in future.

The restrictions proposed in the Discussion Paper mean that household users would no longer be able to purchase SGARs, commercial operators would need to be licenced and farmers and other primary industry users could potentially become authorised users.

WALGA previously responded to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA's) chemical reconsideration on anticoagulant rodenticides in March 2026. WALGA noted the outcomes of the Anticoagulant Rodenticides Review Technical Report (December 2025), which found that SGARs pose an unacceptable risk by breaching safety criteria and having unintended effects on non-target animals. This reflects feedback WALGA has received from Local Governments in Western Australia regarding the harmful impact of SGARs on non-target animals such as owls and other birds of prey, including threatened species.

In providing the feedback to the APVMA, WALGA also highlighted that the process to review anticoagulant rodenticides commenced over five years ago and any restrictions on sale of products are likely to take some time to be effective. WALGA administers a program, on behalf of the State Government, which provides the community with safe disposal options for household chemicals. Through this program, Schedule X pesticides are still being collected although they have not been used widely for over 30 years.

Comments on Proposal

Review of Emergency Use Permit Pathway

Local Governments in agricultural regions are experiencing significant barriers to the effective management of severe pest rodent plagues, which have wide ranging impacts on community welfare, local business and the agricultural industry. Local Governments have expressed frustration with delays for emergency use permits, which has significantly impacted the Local Government and communities' ability to respond to pest rodent plagues in a timely and effective manner.

To address this issue, any proposal to declare SGARs as RCPs must ensure streamlined emergency access to SGARs by a wide range of 'non-authorised' landholders where required to ensure the health and safety of communities and prevent economic impacts to business and industry. WALGA

recommends the APVMA consider reviewing new, more effective rodenticide products for use in emergency contexts where there is a clear demonstrated need and evidence that currently available products have proven ineffective.

WALGA would like to highlight the need to review the effectiveness of the APVMA emergency use permit pathway to:

- ensure simplified emergency permit arrangements during pest rodent outbreaks
- ensure emergency use permits are in place for the duration of the response timeframe
- determine whether emergency use permits are accessible by all landholders.

WALGA recommends that the emergency use permit pathway for SGARs is reviewed to ensure it provides for timely permit assessment, approval and relevant access.

Conditional support for declaration of SGARs as Restricted Chemical Products

In WA, 32 Local Governments have taken proactive measures to limit use of SGARs. These Local Governments have implemented internal policies and practices to avoid use of SGAR products due to concerns about the risk of secondary poisoning to non-target animals, specifically native birds and animals. Of these, 21 Local Governments have declared as [Owl Friendly](#) and do not use SGARs in their pest control programs, with the majority of declarations made in recent years (2024 -2026). The other 11 Local Governments have adopted practices that avoid the use of SGARS in pest control programs or promote use of alternatives to SGARs to community members (see Appendix 1).

These Local Governments occur across various regions, including Perth and Peel, South-West, Mid-West and Kimberley, demonstrating that effective rodent control is possible in a variety of contexts without the use of SGARs. For example, the City of Greater-Geraldton declared as an Owl Friendly Council in July 2024, and other facilities within the municipality, such as Geraldton Port, have also adopted Owl Friendly practices.

The Discussion Paper proposes to declare five specified SGARs as RCPs, with use limited to 'authorised persons' that meet specific qualifications and training under Western Australia's legislative framework. Should Local Governments seek to become authorised users to continue deployment of SGARs as part of their delivery of public health services to local communities, this declaration will require them to meet specific training and licensing requirements. The Discussion Paper is also unclear on whether farmers and primary industry users would be eligible to be qualified as an authorised user.

WALGA supports the proposal to declare SGARS as RCPs, subject to:

- financial assistance for Local Governments to meet any new mandatory training and licensing requirements
- clarification regarding access to SGARs for farmers and other primary industry users

Government implementation of public education program

WALGA recommends that the regulatory changes are supported by a public education program delivered by State and Australian Governments, providing the community with best practice approaches to discourage breeding of mice and rats, and chemical and non-chemical options for rodent control. For example, Birdlife Australia have a range of existing [community education resources](#) that could be promoted. WALGA also recommends funding support to enable landholders to implement preventative actions, such as sealing pest rodent access points to buildings or sheds and installing nest boxes for birds of prey to support natural predation.

WALGA recommends that regulatory changes are supported by a public education program and funding assistance to help land holders implement preventative actions to deter pest rodents.

Appendix 1: Local Governments with Owl Friendly measures

| Local Government by region | Owl Friendly measures |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Perth | |
| 1. Bassendean | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 2. Bayswater | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (August 2025) |
| 3. Canning | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 4. Claremont | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 5. Cockburn | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (June 2024) |
| 6. East Fremantle | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (August 2024) |
| 7. Fremantle | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (August 2024) |
| 8. Melville | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (November 2024) |
| 9. Mosman Park | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (June 2025) |
| 10. Mundaring | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (2023) |
| 11. Peppermint Grove | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 12. Rockingham | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 13. Stirling | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (April 2025) |
| 14. Serpentine-Jarrahdale | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 15. Swan | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 16. Vincent | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| Peel | |
| 17. Bunbury | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (2026) |
| 18. Waroona | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (July 2025) |
| South West | |
| 19. Augusta-Margaret River | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (November 2020) |
| 20. Bridgetown – Greenbushes | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |
| 21. Busselton | Specification of use of alternatives to SGARs in pest management contracts (2021 onwards) |
| 22. Dardanup | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (June 2025) |
| 23. Denmark | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (March 2021) |
| 24. Harvey | Declaration of Owl Friendly status |
| 25. Nannup | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (September 2021) |
| Midwest | |
| 26. Coorow | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (October 2024) |
| 27. Geraldton | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (July 2024) |
| 28. Irwin | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (December 2024) |
| 29. Mingenew | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (November 2024) |
| 30. Perenjori | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (February 2025) |
| 31. Yalgoo | Declaration of Owl Friendly status (October 2024) |
| Kimberley | |
| 32. Broome | Promotion of alternatives to SGARs to community members |