

Will Australian stores' removal of household neonicotinoid products help bees?

Katja Hogendoorn is a native bee expert and Research Associate within the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide:

In my view, home gardeners shouldn't be given the option of making the plants in their garden toxic to bees. Therefore, I am very supportive of Bunnings' and Mitre 10's decision to withdraw Confidor from their shelves and hope other companies will follow suit.

Professor Ian Rae is an expert on chemicals in the environment at the School of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne. He is also an advisor to the United Nations Environment Programme on chemicals in the environment and is former President of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute:

There is no doubt that these pesticides, of the neonicotinoid class, are toxic to honey bees (and possibly other species, too). However, the distribution of the pesticides and the extent to which honey bees are exposed are difficult to assess. Hence we have suspicion, but not proof, of widespread harm. Coming on top of other threats, even a small contribution from the pesticides may be enough to tip the balance in some communities of honey bees.

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Domestic use of such pesticides is on a tiny scale, and any impact from such use would be dwarfed by broad-acre applications in fruit and vegetable producing areas.

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The idea that there would be any gain for the honey bees is probably illusory.

Read full, original post: [Can banning household pesticides save bees?](#)