

Getting SGARs out of our communities

Campaign brief March 2022

The problem with Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) poison and even kill birds of prey and other wildlife when they eat rodents that have ingested certain types of rat and mice baits.

Despite restrictions on their use overseas, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has not blocked these chemicals from being available for public retail in Australia, resulting in large quantities entering natural food chains to potentially poison wildlife.

We are campaigning for SGARs to be taken off retail shelves and available only for use by licensed professionals.

What BirdLife have been doing?

After a public consultation in 2020 and sustained community pressure, the APVMA have announced a formal review of the regulation of anti-coagulant rodenticides. As part of this process BirdLife Australia are working to build scientific evidence and engage with other stakeholders including the pest industry and primary producers to ensure the APVMA review results in changed regulations.

But the APVMA review will take years, and we can get faster action by pressuring retailers at a local level to take SGAR (Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides) products off their shelves and asking local councils and authorities to stop using them.

At the same time we can help people understand the impact of SGARs better so they can make better choices and leave these products on the shelf.

Local action to create national change

Many bird and nature lovers have been working to stop the harmful impact of SGARs for years. Along with these campaigners, BirdLife Australia is helping to empower more people to take action.

Starting with educating friends, neighbours and local communities of the effects of SGARs on their birds, wildlife and pets, we can help keep these harmful chemicals out of natural food chains. At the same time, we want to let supermarkets and hardware shops that they can help by refusing to stock SGARs.

Major property owners such as councils and schools can also play a role by changing their pest management practices and become local heroes for the campaign.

Local action groups will achieve all of this by using a toolkit of evidence and resources for different audiences and tactics - actforbirds.org/ratpoison

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