

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING CCC37**

19 December 2005

John Curtin House, Canberra

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jenni Mack (Chair), Jo Immig, Sam Beechey, Peter Cone, Sid Cowling, Joe Elbustani, Liz Hanna

APVMA OFFICERS PRESENT

Eva Bennet-Jenkins (part), David Loschke (part), Tim Dyke (part), Kathleen Allan, Juanita de Silva, Alan Norden (part), Simon Cubit (part), Penny Linnet (part)

APOLOGIES

Anne Stanton, Don Sutherland

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members extending a particular welcome to new member Joe Elbustani. Attending APVMA staff were also welcomed.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The proposed agenda was accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF CCC36

The Minutes of CCC36 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Pesticides odour working group

Members NOTED the project update provided as part of the Pesticides Program report (agenda item 8.1). The committee noted that the working group has agreed that all requirements of the project have been met and that all future pesticide odour issues will be addressed by RLC and the AERP Ag.

5.2 2006 PSIC meeting

Members were advised that the 2006 PSIC stakeholder workshop is to be held on 18 May, the day after CCC39. This will ensure greater community involvement. It is likely that 3-4 CCC members will be able to attend.

Members also NOTED that the PSIC website, as discussed at CCC36, is now operational.

5.3 Liquid fertilisers

Members NOTED that the APVMA has written to the Fertiliser Industry Federation of Australia (FIFA) about the use of liquid fertilisers as carriers for pesticides. An initial response has indicated that research in Western Australia has generated data supporting the practice with some products in certain situations. The APVMA confirmed that only where mixing with fertilisers has been considered as part of the registration process and specific instructions appear on labels users can be assured of safety of such practices. The APVMA is awaiting a written response from FIFA. The Labelling Code working group that includes broad representation from industry and the community will keep abreast of the issue

AGENDA ITEM 6 - MEMBER MATTERS

6.1 Member activity since CCC36

Sam Beechey

Sam remains concerned about the direction of Chemcert nationally and the perceived fragmentation of State Chemcert organisations.

Sam maintains an ongoing interest in the diazinon review

Sam was recently appointed Farmsafe Alliance Field Officer for Victoria. This will provide an opportunity for greater access to farmers and to promote an awareness of the role and importance of the APVMA.

Peter Cone

Members NOTED Peter's activity report summarising his CCC related activities since CCC36.

Peter attended the APVMA Forum on Future Directions for Labels and provided a user perspective to discussions.

Peter presented a paper at the Australian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Conference 'The view from industry – getting the balance right'.

Peter presented a farming industry perspective at a range of grower seminars to address the issue of spray drift as part of the 'Tour of Opportunity Series' hosted by Farmcare.

Peter attended a meeting of the APVMA Odour Working Group and also met with the NSW Apiarist Association to discuss the issues of label statements relating to protection of bees from spray drift.

Peter conducted a number of media interviews in relation to reducing the risk of spray drift.

Jo Immig

Jo has spent a significant amount of time since CCC36 preparing to committee discussion paper on minor use.

Jo also advised the Committee that the NSW Government has recently gazetted regulations for notification of pesticide use in public areas. These

regulations are available on the NSW EPA website
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Jo reported of issues relating to her work with the NSW Gene Technology Advisory Council. Specifically GM contamination of non-GM and new threshold levels of contamination that are being developed.

Jo participated in the 3 monthly Mittagong Forum as part of the National Environmental Consultative Forum (NECF) – priority issues for the group are climate change and the impact on agriculture.

Jo advised the committee that she is aware of a neighbour incident involving spraying of 2,4D. In this instance there was no evidence of training, neighbour notification or personal protective equipment (PPE).

Jo has recently accepted appointment to the position of Coordinator for the National Toxics Network.

Anne Stanton

Members NOTED Anne's activity report summarising her CCC related activities since CCC36.

Liz Hanna

Liz has recently been involved in pesticide human health impacts research at Harvard University in the US. Liz is particularly interested to see this work permeate to the whole chemical industry including the APVMA.

Members NOTED Liz's report on the APVMA Labelling Forum. Of particular interest to Liz was the issue surrounding a lack of compliance activity at a State level and the impact this has on the effectiveness of the whole National Regulation Scheme for pesticides and veterinary medicines.

Liz advised the committee that the priority issue for the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) for 2006 is climate change.

Sid Cowling

Sid advised members that the Organic Federation of Australia has recently undergone a major restructure.

Sid has been actively promoting the AERP Ag amongst his constituency. The program brochure is a valuable tool for this.

6.2 Member brief

Item deferred due to apology from Anne Stanton

6.3 Other matters

All other issues discussed as part of separate agenda items.

AGENDA 7 WORK PROGRAM

7.1 Procedures manual

Members were advised that a bound copy of the APVMA CCC Operational Guidelines, amended after discussion at CCC36, would be provided shortly.

37.1 CCC Secretariat to distribute the amended Operational Guidelines to members.

7.2 Online communication

The CCC Secretariat provided members with a detailed briefing on recent online communication developments. Members NOTED that the APVMA has commissioned new email marketing software known as Melon Mail. This product allows the APVMA to distribute professional emails quickly to a large list of subscribers. Melon Mail is supported by a robust database. The database is structured so that emails can be targeted to APVMA stakeholder groups or areas of interest. The database is populated manually or via web subscription. The program has an extensive reporting function. Feedback about the new facility has been very positive.

Members NOTED that most of the previous 'community' subscribers were captured by the new system however members were asked to encourage their networks to subscribe to receive APVMA information.

Action 37.2 CCC Secretariat to provide members with some text introducing the new software and instructions for subscribing to the service that members can distribute to their networks.

7.3 Agvet chemical container management

The meeting considered the summary paper prepared for this item. Members NOTED that the response to this round of requests for input to the project had been disappointing. The meeting agreed that, as the aim of the project was to increase the focus of the APVMA on container management, to progress the project the CCC would

- a. request a copy of the *Performance Criteria for Best Practice Non-returnable Container* report from the Avcare Packaging Committee
- b. request that the CCC be kept abreast of any changes to regulatory requirements relating to packaging (as a request of changes to SUSDP)
- c. write to the APVMA Labelling Code Working Group, summarising the finding of its consultations and ask that these issues be considered on the agenda of the working groups deliberations.

The meeting agreed that a Container Management working group (Peter Cone (Chair), Joe Elbustani and Liz Hanna) would be established to identify future activity in relation to this project. The sub-committee will initially consider the drumMUSTER report and the Avcare Packaging Committee report. The APVMA agreed to consider inviting at least one CCC member to participate in future APVMA Labelling Code working group activities.

*Action 37.3 Secretariat to request a copy of the **Performance Criteria for Best Practice Non-returnable Container** report from the Avcare Packaging Committee*

Action 37.4 CCC to write to the APVMA stakeholder labelling working group summarising the finding of its consultations and ask that these issues be considered on the agenda of the working groups deliberations

37.5 Container management working group to consider Avcare Packaging Committee report and the latest DrumMUSTER information and make recommendations to next meeting.

Action 37.6: CCC Container Management working group to report back to the next meeting on other ways in which this project can be progressed.

7.4 Review of APVMA minor use permit system

The minor use permit system is a major focus of the CCC workplan. Members NOTED the comprehensive discussion paper highlighting community issues/perspectives about minor use prepared by Jo Immig.

Jo took members through the key points of the discussion paper. Reference was made to the impact that climate change would have on agriculture. Latest research indicates a likely increase in pest pressure and therefore increased reliance on control measures including pesticides.

The meeting AGREED that the report was outstanding and CONGRATULATED Jo on her very comprehensive informative and useful paper.

Alan Norden, APVMA Minor Use Project Officer was asked to comment on the paper. Members NOTED that the system is limited by a lack of research and development for minor uses specifically to the registration and approval stage. The APVMA recognises the importance of reduced risk chemistry and it is a priority to get these uses on labels. There is an incentive for minor use registration via the distinct uses component of the data protection scheme.

The Committee NOTED that it was important that the APVMA promulgate a long-term focus on reduced-risk. The APVMA highlighted that significant progress has been made in relation to addressing minor use issues in Australia. The meeting AGREED that the APVMA should communicate more widely the progress that has been made.

In order to progress the work plan item, the meeting agreed that a working group would be formed and meet with a view to developing a number of recommendations based on the strategies set out in Jo's paper. Members were asked to provide feedback on the discussion paper to Jo Immig in the first instance with a view to forming a working group after discussion with Alan Norden.

Action 37.7 Members to provide feedback on the discussion paper to Jo Immig

Action 37.8 Jo Immig to discuss progressing the workplan with the Chair, Secretariat and Alan Norden via teleconference with a view of hosting a working group (Jo, Joe ad Liz) forum to develop key recommendations.

7.5 AERP Ag update

Members have ongoing concerns about the promotion of the AERP Ag. Consequently the committee seeks a progress report against the communication plan at each meeting.

The meeting NOTED that significant progress has been made since the previous meeting in relation to promotion of the AERP Ag. Awareness building campaigns promoting a message of safe use of pesticides were run in major rural newspapers throughout Australia. Numerous editorial pieces were run in several major rural publications. Letters introducing the program were sent to alternative medicine organisations as well as 670 local government organisations throughout Australia. The APVMA has also met with a number of organisations with a view to establishing better linkages and an increased awareness of the APVMA and AERP Ag.

The committee was pleased with this progress. Members also NOTED that promotion of the AERP Ag is a priority issue for Public Affairs in 2006.

There was discussion about the decreasing number of AERP reports received by the APVMA. It was agreed that there would be seasonal trends for the AERP Ag. Members were also concerned about the lack of awareness amongst the general public and whether that would be reflected in a lack of reports. The APVMA advised that even if individuals did not report an adverse event, if it was reported to a manufacturer as would be likely, those reports would be picked up by the APVMA as part of the mandatory reporting program.

7.6 Spray drift

Members NOTED the progress update provided in the pesticides program report. The revised spray drift data requirements are being amended following consideration of comments received during the public consultation phase that finished in October. A technical working group including industry representatives will refine the discussion paper and provide a reference group to address future spray drift issues. Updated draft requirements will be presented to the Board in early 2006.

7.7 CCA review

The Chair reminded members that an outcome of CCC36 was for the committee to prepare CCA background information suitable for use by consumer organisations. The APVMA agreed to provide some technical information suitable for the CCC to use in preparing these materials. The committee NOTED the APVMA technical information that was provided.

The meeting agreed that the CCC will prepare some background material suitable for use by consumer organisations.

37.9 CCC to prepare some background information on the CCA review suitable for use by consumer organisations.

The meeting discussed the various actions/inactions taken by schools and local councils in relation to reducing the perceived risk from exposure to CCA treated timbers ie removal of playgrounds, sealing of timbers etc. The meeting agreed it would be valuable to see a summary of some of these activities as well as some details

in relation to the effectiveness of sealants. The APVMA agreed to provide these details

37.10 APVMA to provide a summary of feedback about activities undertaken by local government areas and others in relation to reducing risk of exposure to CCA treated timbers and provide details to the next meeting as well as details on effectiveness of timber sealants.

AGENDA ITEM 8 APVMA REPORTS

8.1 Pesticides program

Members NOTED the Pesticides Program report.

8.2 Veterinary medicines program

Members NOTED the Veterinary Medicines Program report.

8.3 Quality assurance and compliance program

Members NOTED the Quality Assurance and Compliance Program report.

8.4 Board update

Members NOTED that Board updates would now be provided in the meeting papers. The update will be a summary of key outcomes from the meetings and is also available on the APVMA website. Members are welcome to seek clarification on issues of interest as appropriate.

Members NOTED the APVMA 16 (October 7) Board update.

8.5 APVMA committee updates

Members NOTED that other APVMA consultative committees (Registration Liaison Committee, Industry Liaison Committee and Industry Technical Committee) minutes will now be provided with the CCC meeting papers.

Members NOTED the meeting minutes for RLC28, ILC30 and ITC17.

8.6 Chemical issues

Members NOTED the APVMA response to the UK Pesticide Bystander report
Members also NOTED the recently published APVMA Animal Welfare position paper.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - 2006 MEETING DATES

The proposed meeting dates for the next twelve months are:

CCC38 – Thursday 23 March (last meeting for retiring members)

CCC39 – Thursday 18 May (first meeting for four new members)

CCC40 – Thursday 17 August

CCC41 – Wednesday 29 November (depending on Board meeting and Christmas function dates for which have not been set)

AGENDA ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

CLOSE

The Chair thanked members and staff for their attendance and wished everyone an enjoyable festive season..

Meeting closed at 3.45 pm.

Signed

Jenni Mack (Chair)

Kathleen Allan (Secretariat)