

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING CCC38**

23 March 2006

John Curtin House, Canberra

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**APVMA OFFICERS PRESENT**

Eva Bennet-Jenkins, David Loschke (part), Tim Dyke (part), Kathleen Allan, Alan Norden (part), Stephen McDonald (part)

**APOLOGIES**

Jo Immig

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed members and attending APVMA staff. The Chair advised members that Don Sutherland has tendered his resignation from the committee for personal reasons.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The proposed agenda was accepted.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF CCC36**

The Minutes of CCC37 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**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, can users be assured of safety of such practices. The Labelling Code working group that includes broad representation from industry and the community will keep abreast of the issue

**Regulatory Science Quality**

The meeting NOTED that the APVMA Standard on Good Regulatory Science Quality Practice has been published on the APVMA intranet and a copy would be made available to all members. The APVMA also advised that a document outlining the APVMA's risk assessment framework is being developed. This document will be

suitable for all stakeholders. The APVMA will circulate a draft of the assessment framework to the committee in due course.

*Action 38.1 Secretariat to provide members with a copy of the APVMA Standard on Good Regulatory Science Quality Practice.*

*Action 38.2 APVMA to consult with CCC during development of the risk assessment framework*

### **CCC Operational Guidelines**

Members were provided with a copy of the updated CCC Operational Guidelines.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 - MEMBER MATTERS**

### **6.1 Member activity since CCC37**

Sam Beechey

Members NOTED Sam's written report.

Sam is aware of a recent DPI Vic report to ChemCert Victoria relating to the apparent lack of community knowledge about obligations and requirements relating to storage and use of pesticides.

Sam was alerted to an incident where a commercial operator using a tractor and slasher in a blue gum plantation suffered a collapsed lung and was hospitalised after being exposed to fungus that grows on the base of blue gum trees.

Sam alerted members to the commencement of an aerial baiting program targeting wild dogs in Victoria. Some sections of the community have expressed concern about the effectiveness of this method. Also concern that bird population and other native animals are also at risk.

Peter Cone

Members NOTED Peter's written report.

Peter recently met with the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (formerly EPA) to discuss progress of implementation of outcomes from the 2005 APVMA Spray drift summit.

Peter met with the President and a group of members of the NSW Apiarists Association to discuss possible ways of reducing risks to bees in cotton growing areas during the cotton growing season.

Visited a number of farms in the Emerald area of Central Queensland that have been impacted by spray drift. Promotion of the need to further progress key issues; improved labels, user education, industry stewardship and regulator policing.

Peter has recently been appointed to the Pesticides Advisory Committee with the Office of Chemical Safety in the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Anne Stanton

Anne has contacted a number of NSW North Coast and NSW South Coast hospitals and local governments to ascertain awareness levels of the AERP Ag. In relation to local governments, Anne observed that promotion and awareness of the program was limited to website links only. The meeting agreed that this information would be useful and encouraged Anne to provide a summary.

*Action 38.1 CCC to write to Anne to ask her to provide a written report of agencies she has contacted about AERP, including any information she has about their awareness levels.*

Liz Hanna

Liz has recently been appointed Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Deakin University's School of Health and Social Development.

Ongoing involvement with the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention

Ongoing concern about the skill level of primary health care providers especially nurses in relation to chemical exposure incidents

Liz is participating in the 'Expanding Horizons' forum in Canberra. This forum involves presentations to clusters of politicians on issues of significance.

Liz is involved in the Hazmat conference and advised members that once again the focus for the conference is industrial chemicals.

Sid Cowling

Sid has distributed relevant information to his network constituents

Provided members with a copy of the DAFF publication – 'The Australian Organic Industry – A Summary'.

Sid clarified for members that in relation to organic standards, national standards are set by AQIS, however, certifying organisations each have their own standards and these tend to be stricter than the national standards.

## **6.2 Member brief – National Toxics Network**

Members NOTED Anne's written report.

NTN is a community-based network with the objectives of pollution reduction, protection of environmental health and environmental justice for all. NTN was

established in 1993 and has grown as a national network to support community and environmental organisations across Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

NTN is affiliated with a number of national organisations and has partners throughout the world.

NTN has interests in all aspects of toxic chemical pollution including regulatory and assessment issues and is involved in a wide range of national and international campaigns including pesticide reduction, toxic waste and environmental health. NTN's campaign focus for 2005 was children's environmental health and intergenerational equity. NTN is a vocal advocate of community right-to-know and the precautionary principle.

NTN produces a range of information resources for communities such as handbooks, briefing papers, information sheets and checklists. NTN has a website that includes extensive information for members of the community.

Members discussed the role of NTN working with producers to identify safer pesticide alternatives.

### **6.3 Other matters**

#### **6.3.1 NSW Apiarists Association**

The NSW Apiarists Association contacted the Community Consultative Committee to raise concerns about the adequacy of labelling on pesticides in relation to risk to honey bees. The Association believes that inadequate warning on pesticides labels has resulted in the loss of hives and production and is a major issue for beekeepers.

In particular, the Association would like the following issues addressed on pesticide labels:

1. danger to where foraging bees are present
2. safe re-entry periods for farmers and beekeepers
3. danger rating (for bees) on different pesticides

The meeting NOTED that a Code of Practice for pesticide impact on bees was being developed specifically for the cotton industry.

The meeting AGREED to respond to the NSW Apiarists Association and advise them that the CCC representative will table the issue at the APVMA LABELLING WORKING GROUP.

*Action 38.3 Secretariat to respond to NSW Apiarists Association and advise them that the CCC representative will table the issue at the APVMA LABELLING WORKING GROUP.*

## **AGENDA 7 WORK PROGRAM**

### **7.1 Review of the APVMA Chemical Review Program**

A review of community involvement in the APVMA chemical review program was a major work plan item for the committee. The APVMA Board considered a number of

committee recommendations at its meeting in February 2005. The APVMA agreed to provide an implementation update approximately six months after consideration of the committees recommendations.

The meeting NOTED the APVMA's update for each of the recommendations. Members were pleased with the significant progress against each of the recommendations. The meeting identified that CCC input was required for implementation of a number of recommendations. It was AGREED that the Chair and Secretariat would identify the recommendations that the CCC are responsible for and develop a process to ensure progress and implementation of the recommendations.

*Action 38.4 Chair and Secretariat to identify the recommendations that the CCC are responsible for and develop a process to ensure progress and implementation of those recommendations.*

## **7.2 Recall guidelines**

APVMA recall procedures were identified as an item of interest to be considered as part of the CCC work plan. Members NOTED the APVMA recall guidelines that were provided with the meeting papers.

The Chair welcomed Mr Stephen McDonald, Manager Compliance and invited him to address the committee. The presentation included a detailed discussion on the possible reasons for a recall and the legislative basis for their conduct. Members were provided with an overview of the different types of recalls (compulsory or voluntary) and what can be covered by a recall. A summary of the overall process was provided.

The meeting NOTED that the enforcement action taken by the APVMA must be appropriate for the non-compliance that has occurred. The meeting also NOTED that the success of a recall is measured on the reasonable steps taken to achieve APVMA requirements ie compliance.

The meeting was provided with a summary of recall action taken to date as well as a number of case studies.

The meeting NOTED that the recall guidelines are a guide for industry to manage a voluntary recall.

The meeting AGREED that it was a very informative presentation. The Chair thanked Mr McDonald for his participation.

Members were asked to consider the issue of recalls as well as how the CCC might want to progress the work plan item. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

*Action 38.5 Members to consider how to progress recall procedures on the CCC work plan for discussion at CCC39.*

## **7.3 Spray drift update**

Item deferred until next meeting (CCC39).

#### **7.4 Agvet chemical container management**

Members were advised of recent changes at Avcare. Members NOTED the cessation of Avcare and the subsequent splitting of the animal health and agriculture functions into two newly formed organisations, CropLife Australia and Animal Health Alliance.

The Secretariat advised the meeting that the Avcare Packaging Committee report 'Performance Criteria for Best Practice Non-returnable Containers' was currently being printed and will be publicly available shortly. Members of the CCC will be provided with a copy.

*Action 38.6 Secretariat to provide members with a copy of the Avcare Packaging Committee report 'Performance Criteria for Best Practice Non-returnable Containers'*

Members NOTED the container management project report prepared by Peter Cone provided with the meeting papers. The meeting AGREED that there were three key issues to be addressed as part of the project: product labelling, container design and durability and management and disposal of used containers. The meeting also AGREED that as significant work is being done by Avcare in relation to container design and durability and by drumMUSTER in relation to management and disposal, it is probably more efficient if the CCC focuses on product labelling, an issue that the APVMA has direct carriage and the CCC can have significant input.

CCC input to the APVMA Labelling Working Group is considered vital and the CCC will be represented by Peter Cone and Liz Hanna. It was AGREED that community issues would be represented at working group meeting by these CCC representatives and progress reports will be provided to each CCC meeting.

*Action 38.7 CCC labelling representatives to provide progress reports at each CCC meeting.*

#### **7.5 APVMA website redevelopment**

The Chair invited CCC Secretariat, Kathleen Allan from Public Affairs to provide members with an update on the APVMA website redevelopment project.

The meeting NOTED that the APVMA is moving to new premises in late 2006. The move and a number of other factors have influenced the APVMA to look at its overall brand values and corporate positioning. The APVMA has recently clarified our brand values in consultation with internal and external stakeholders and these together with our mission and vision statement are important elements to consider in respect of the APVMA's website. The website is the primary communication vehicle for the APVMA and needs to meet the needs of four key stakeholder groups: government, the community, chemical users and the chemical industry.

The APVMA has recently commenced a project to redesign the APVMA website. The project has two objectives: to ensure that the website complements the APVMA's vision and mission statements as well as branding values and that stakeholder needs are met. The project consists of two major components. The first stage is development of a new design overlay and new architecture for the four stakeholder groups. The

second stage will be complete audit of existing content and revision and amendments as necessary.

The meeting NOTED the proposed layout of the redesigned home page and suggestions for the four stakeholder gateway pages. Accessibility of relevant and targeted information is of primary consideration. The committee was asked to provide suggestions for what types of things would be valuable to include on the 'community' page. It was NOTED that the architecture for the community and chemicals users pages would be similar with different explanatory text suitable for the different audiences.

The meeting made the following comments:

- The list approach was too cluttered
- Site had a very technical and staid look so bling bling was desperately needed so there was little to focus reader's attention on key information or even new information – need new and hot topic type buttons
- Site needed greater flexibility – the lists rarely changed rather they were just added to and so get longer and longer

The following topics were suggested for inclusion on the community page

- Introductory information about the APVMA
- Safe use of pesticides and veterinary medicines (although not under this heading – a more direct approach was suggested especially in respect of AERP)
  - o Labels
  - o Health and safety info and links
  - o Training
  - o Disposal
  - o Compliance
  - o AERP
- 
- Chemical reviews
- Relevant external links
- Feedback
- CCC

It was noted that greater prominence needed to be given to the AERP access point and user friendly terminology was needed.

The APVMA agreed to provide members with draft architecture and some text for comment.

*Action 38.8 Members to comment on proposed community page architecture and text.*

## **7.6 Review of APVMA minor use permit system**

The minor use permit system is a major focus of the CCC work plan. A comprehensive discussion paper, prepared by Jo Immig, was discussed at CCC37. A teleconference between Alan Norden, Jo Immig, Jenni Mack and Eva Bennet-Jenkins

to discuss the issues raised in the discussion paper took place on 2 March. An outcome of the teleconference was for the APVMA to respond to the issues and recommendations presented in the report.

The Chair welcomed Alan Norden, Minor Use Project Officer to the meeting and introduced Jo Immig via telephone hook-up. Members NOTED the APVMA's response to the discussion paper, 'A Background and Issues Paper on Minor Use' and proposed future directions in progressing reduced risk chemistry for minor uses.

The meeting NOTED that reduced risk criteria can be separated into three different types; either (i) human health, (ii) environmental or (iii) industry practices based. The APVMA proposes to separate the development of reduced risk guidelines and criteria into these three parts. In relation to human health, the APVMA will seek advice from OCS and for environmental considerations; advice will be sought from DEH. The APVMA will engage an external consultant to survey minor use industries with a view to identifying existing industry practices with a focus on reduced risk, obstacles to the progression of reduced risk options and regulatory incentives that could be established to encourage development of reduced risk products.

The APVMA proposed that guidelines and criteria addressing the three components of reduced risk, developed with a phase of public consultation, is scheduled for 30 June 2007.

The CCC minor use working group expressed an interest in being involved in scoping the brief for the external consultant as well as OCS and DEH. The APVMA will provide a draft to the CCC for comment.

*Action 38.9 APVMA to seek CCC feedback on briefing documents for OCS, DEH and external consultant in relation to development of reduced risk criteria guidelines.*

### **7.7 AERP Ag update**

Members NOTED the AERP Ag update provided at para's #13 and #14 of the Quality Assurance and Compliance program report.

The meeting NOTED that the APVMA has engaged the services of an external journalist to progress some of the communication strategies for the program. The original project plan was to develop appropriate promotional material for rural and urban audiences as well as the medical profession.

Prior to development of suitable materials, the external contractor conducted a small round of market research to gain a better understanding of the context which the AERP Ag and the APVMA sit within rural users and resellers. The overwhelming message from these discussions was that generally, the rural community is aware of the APVMA but that there is a negative attitude towards the authority. Similarly, people are aware of the AERP Ag but consider that it is not a priority. As a result of this, major advertising campaigns to promote the program were considered to be of little value. As such, the focus should be on ensuring that the program is easily accessible rather than general promotion. The APVMA will consider these findings prior to developing phase two of the project.

The meeting was pleased that the APVMA is considering the issue of a 1800 number for general feedback including AERP reporting.

Members asked whether future AERP Ag updates in the QA&C program report could show the breakdown of voluntary and compulsory reports received.

Action: APVMA to consider whether future AERP Ag updates in the QA&C program report could show the breakdown of voluntary and compulsory reports received.

### **7.8 CCA review**

The meeting NOTED the CCA update provided with the meeting papers. In particular, promotion of APVMA findings in a number of publications and information websites as well as APVMA and industry collaboration to develop risk management strategies to manage down-stream risks not necessarily within the APVMA's jurisdiction, were seen as major developments.

Members NOTED that most community related issues are related to supply chain management and consumer awareness.

The meeting also discussed actions taken by local governments and schools and childcare centres in relation to management of existing structures. The meeting NOTED that various strategies had been employed ranging from removal of structures to painting and application of timber sealants. The APVMA advised that numerous requests for advice about management of existing structures are received and whilst the APVMA provides advice including the FAQ sheet on the website, the APVMA does not have jurisdiction over existing structures. The APVMA agreed to provide members with a link to the US EPA website publication on the effectiveness of sealants.

*Action 38.10 APVMA to provide members with a link to the US EPA website publication on the effectiveness of sealants.*

### **7.9 Committee work plan**

Members NOTED that a review of the CCC work plan was provided with the meeting papers. The Chair advised members that development of a new three-year work plan will occur at the next meeting (CCC39). Members were encouraged to review the existing work plan and identify potential priorities for the next three years.

## **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 the APVMA 17 (20 December 2005) Board update.

#### **8.5 APVMA committee updates**

Members NOTED the meeting minutes for RLC29, ILC31.

#### **8.6 Chemical issues**

Members NOTED APVMA responses to claims linking pesticide use and childhood leukaemia and motor neurone disease.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 - 2006 MEETING DATES**

CCC39 – Wednesday 17 (to coincide with PSIC meeting on Thursday 18 May) first meeting for four new members)

CCC40 – Thursday 17 August

CCC41 – Wednesday 29 November

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS**

Members NOTED the summary of the Chair's annual report to the APVMA Board.

#### **CLOSE**

The Chair thanked members and staff for their attendance. The Chair acknowledged that it was Anne Stanton's last meeting, thanked her for her very significant contribution to the committee and wished her well for the future.

Meeting closed at 3.00 pm.

Signed

Jenni Mack (Chair)

Kathleen Allan (Secretariat)

### CCC Action Sheet

Action No.	Issue	Action	Due Date	Responsibility	Status
26.11	APVMA Recall Guidelines	CCC Members to review APVMA recall guidelines at a future meeting.	TBA	CCC	Outstanding
30.10	Regulatory science quality	Members to provide feedback on the regulatory science quality proposal by CCC31	CCC31	CCC	On hold pending reassignment
35.8	CCC review of APVMA chemical review program	The CCC asked the APVMA to provide a report on implementation of the recommendations in 6 months time and a further report 6 months after that.	Feb 06	Eva	Completed
36.7	Spray drift	Peter Cone to provide comment to the Committee on the revised guidelines. APVMA to seek comments from community groups in spray drift affected communities.		Peter Cone APVMA	
37.1	CCC Operational Guidelines	CCC Secretariat to distribute the amended Operational Guidelines to members.	ASAP	Secretariat	Completed
37.2	Network communication/consultation	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.	ASAP	Secretariat	Completed
37.3	Container management	Secretariat to request a copy of the Performance Criteria for Best Practice Non-returnable Container report from the Avcare Packaging Committee	ASAP	Secretariat	
37.4	Container management	CCC to write to the APVMA stakeholder	CCC38	Secretariat/CCC	

		labelling working group summarising the finding of its consultations and ask that these issues be considered on the agenda of the working groups deliberations		Container working group	
37.5	Container management	Container management working group to consider Avcare Packaging Committee report and the latest DrumMUSTER information and make recommendations to next meeting.	CCC38	CCC Container working group	
37.6	Container management	CCC Container Management working group to report back to the next meeting on other ways in which this project can be progressed.	CCC38	CCC Container working group	
37.7	Minor use	Members to provide feedback on the discussion paper to Jo Immig	CCC38	CCC	Completed
37.8	Minor use	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.	CCC38	CCC	Completed
37.9	CCA review	CCC to prepare some background information on the CCA review suitable for use by consumer organisations.	CCC38	APVMA	Completed
37.10	CCA review	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.	CCC38	APVMA	
38.1	Regulatory Science Quality	<i>Action 38.1 Secretariat to provide members with a copy of the <u>APVMA Standard on Good</u></i>			

		<i>Regulatory Science Quality Practice.</i>			
38.2		<i>Action 38.2 APVMA to consult with CCC during development of the risk assessment framework</i>			
38.3		<i>Action 38.1 CCC to write to Anne to ask her to provide a written report of agencies she has contacted about AERP, including any information she has about their awareness levels.</i>			
		<i>Action 38.3 Secretariat to respond to NSW Apiarists Association and advise them that the CCC representative will table the issue at the APVMA LABELLING WORKING GROUP.</i>			
		<i>Action 38.4 Chair and Secretariat to identify the recommendations that the CCC are responsible for and develop a process to ensure progress and implementation of those recommendations.</i>			
		<i>Action 38.5 Members to consider how to progress recall procedures on the CCC work plan for discussion at CCC39.</i>			
		<i>Action 38.6 Secretariat to provide members with a copy of the Avcare Packaging Committee report 'Performance Criteria for Best Practice Non-returnable Containers'</i>			
		<i>Action 38.7 CCC labelling representatives to</i>			

		<i>provide progress reports at each CCC meeting.</i>			
		<i>Action 38.8 Members to comment on proposed community page architecture and text.</i>			
		Action 38.9 APVMA to seek CCC feedback on briefing documents for OCS, DEH and external consultant in relation to development of reduced risk criteria guidelines.			
		<i>Action 38.10 APVMA to provide members with a link to the US EPA website publication on the effectiveness of sealants.</i>			