



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

46TH MEETING – 27 MARCH 2008

ATTENDANCE

APVMA	Simon Cubit	Manager Public Affairs
	James Suter (Part)	General Counsel; A/g Program Manager (Regulatory Strategy and Compliance)
	Les Davies (Part)	Chemical Review
	David Loschke (Part)	Principal Scientist
	John Owusu (Part)	Principal Evaluator
	Elvira Currie (Part)	Senior Reviewer AERP
	Robyn Schipp (Part)	AERP
	Joan Ashton (Part)	Chemical Review
INDUSTRY	Heather Yeatman (Chair)	Australian Consumers Association
	Sam Beechey	Australian Workers Union, Farmsafe Australia
	Peter Cone	Cotton Australia, National Farmers Federation
	John Temperley	Farmsafe Australia Inc
	Jo Immig	National Environmental Consultative Forum – NSW Total Environment Centre, Coordinator National Toxics Network
	Neville Prowse-Brown	Australian Landscape Trust, East Gippsland Landacre Netowrk, Victorian Farmers Federation East Gippsland District Council, Monash School of Rural Health, East Gippsland Organic Association, Redgum Conservation Management Network
	Joe Elbustani	Greenhouse Vegetables Association, NSW Farmers Association
	Julie Northridge	National Audit & Registration Agency
APOLOGIES	Nil	

1. INTRODUCTION

Item 1.1 Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

1. The Chair opened CCC 46 at 9.15am.
 - a. The Chair welcomed CCC members and APVMA staff, including the APVMA graduates to CCC 46.
 - b. Dr Heather Yeatman introduced herself as the new CCC chair giving a background to her experience and knowledge stating she is looking forward to working with members in the future and achieving some important outcomes for the CCC.
2. CCC ADOPTED the agenda.

Item 1.2 Report of CCC45

1. CCC ACCEPTED the report of CCC 45 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Item 1.3 Actions From Previous Meetings

1. CCC NOTED the actions arising from CCC 44 and CCC 45 were completed.

Item 1.4 CCC Correspondence Register

1. CCC members NOTED correspondence.

2. MEMBERS MATTERS

Item 2.1 Members Reports

Peter Cone

1. Peter apologised for not being able to provide a written report for the meeting. He mentioned the following issues:
 - a. His involvement in the project which is investigating the issue of bees being affected by chemical use and mentioned the introduction and availability of a 'bee alert' website to alert farmers to honey beehives in their area; and for;
 - Apiarists informing cotton growers where hives are located.
 - Cotton growers informing beekeepers when they are likely to spray and with what insecticides, so that the beekeepers may take precautionary measures.
 - Due to the logistics involved in moving an apiary beekeepers require as much warning time as possible and, where practical, at least 24 hours.
 - b. Spraydrift and recent destruction of several crops
 - c. Lack of quality training people are receiving in the use of chemicals.
 - d. His attendance at the Product Safety and Integrity Committee (PSIC) working group held in Canberra in early March 2008.

Neville Prowse-Brown

1. Members NOTED Neville's report.
 - a. Neville mentioned that he would be getting accredited next week to deliver 1080 training programs.
 - b. Neville handed out a paper on Horticultural Pesticide Residues in Water for the information of CCC members. This paper was copied for all members.
 - c. The issue of distributing relevant published written material to members between and during CCC meetings was raised. APVMA currently subscribes to Media Monitors as part of its Issue Management strategy. All of these clippings are archived.
 - d. APVMA agreed to provide members with their current search terms for our media monitoring so CCC are aware of what we are viewing and if it is possible that we may have missed a particular journal that they come across. If so, members can let APVMA know via the current CCC communication link.
 - e. CCC would like to receive a 3-month summary of all chemical issues that are received by APVMA via media monitoring for each meeting.

Action:

- APVMA to provide CCC with current search terms for our media monitoring
- APVMA to provide CCC with a 3-month summary of all media monitoring for each meeting.

Julie Northridge

1. Julie reported that she is now working for the National Audit and Registration Agency (NARA), which is a new national regulator for the vocational education and training sector that is located in North Sydney.
 - a. Julie noted that her preferred focus for CCC in 2008, due to the short window of opportunity, is to contribute to changes in governance that will improve the consistency of regulation for both chemical registration and control of use, stating that good regulation requires a sound governance structure.
 - A key question that needs to be asked is: "can there be any justification for continuing the current difference between States and Territories in their control of use and training regulations?"
 - Given the activity of Productivity Commission in relation to chemicals and plastics, it would be timely for the CCC to become agents for change, seeking a truly national system of chemical licensing and use, based on a new governance model.
 - b. Julie also raised the issue of marketing of chemical products, stating that while it is understood that products are registered on the basis that consumers can read and follow the instructions on the label, most domestic consumers buy products on the assumption that if it is available in the supermarket, it must be safe for use.
 - There seems to be a blind faith that "someone in the Government" is checking things and making sure that they are safe and it is important that the APVMA communicate to

consumers the nature and importance of information provided on product labels.

- It is also worth noting that while manufacturers market the advantages of their products, registration brings with it no obligation to promote the safety issues associated with product use.

Jo Immig

1. Members NOTED Jo's report.
 - a. Jo also mentioned that she has received a response from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, in relation to the atrazine review stating that while it was not appropriate for him to comment on the specific matters of atrazine and simazine and their potential environmental impacts, he was able to advise that his Department will be piloting a nationwide programme this year to monitor the distribution and concentration of chemicals in the environment. Jo intends to write back to Minister Garrett to see what he exactly means by that statement and will distribute the response O-O-S.

Sam Beechey

1. Members NOTED Sam's report.
 - a. The importance of adequate training being provided to farmers in relation to the new laws concerning the access and use of 1080 was emphasised.
 - b. The vaccine given to sheep to prevent the onset of Ovine Johnne's Disease is now available over the counter. The need for the relevant training program, which will alert users of the dangers and the course of action to be taken in relation to seeking medical advice was highlighted.
 - c. Sam will be using the APVMA AERP banner and distributing AERP brochures during the Farm Safety Forums to try and alert people to AERP and really try to get the message out to the community.

John Temperley

1. John mentioned that he also attended the Product Safety and Integrity Committee (PSIC) working group held in Canberra in early March 2008 along with Peter Cone.

Joe Elbustani

1. Joe indicated that he had little to report, although he did comment on the fact that between APVMA and Industry it is going well in helping steering growers in the right direction.

The Chair thanked the members for their reports and indicated the following in relation to members report;

- a. The importance of a written report to be produced for each meeting
- b. A standardisation of members reports to include;
 - i. Information disseminated to community organisations

- ii. Information of relevance to APVMA activities and responsibilities
- iii. Other
- c. Noted there were some good news stories.
- d. Noted some repeat issues in relation to the importance and need for improved training within the industry.
- e. Noted the good communication between the community and APVMA.

Action:

CCC Secretariat to circulate a CCC members' report template out-of-session (O-O-S) to members to be available for CCC 47

Item 2.2 Labelling Committee

No further activity on the labelling committee

Item 2.3 International Developments

1. There has not been any further activity on the international developments due to the resignation of Liz Hanna and also this being Jo Immig's last meeting.
2. The CCC will need to keep abreast of international developments because of their significant importance and will need to decide on who will be the International Developments contact from the existing and new CCC members.

Action:

CCC needs to consider a new international developments contact to replace Liz Hanna and Jo Immig, dependent upon member affiliations and networks.

3. WORK PROGRAM

Item 3.1 Emerging Issues in Agvet Chemical Regulation

1. The current emerging issues were noted and Heather Yeatman explained that she had spoken to Eva prior to CCC 46 on how to advance the emerging issues project.
2. The next phase is to put together a short project brief to apply to the APVMA for funding as it depends on the budget as to how many of the issues go ahead.
3. CCC will then need to organise a project co-ordinator to pull it together.

Action:

- Heather to draft up a project brief and circulate to members for comment out of session.
- If there is no response it will be taken as members agree to the brief.
- This will then be taken forward to the APVMA seeking approval for budget.

Item 3.2 Harshness Indicators Project

1. A draft document for the Harshness Indicators Project was provided with the agenda papers. Simon presented the committee with a draft web-based tool design that looks into home and garden use.
2. The APVMA was congratulated on progress to date.
3. A fold-out pocket guide was mentioned as one way to advertise the APVMA and inform the community on harshness indicators.
4. Julie Northridge offered to edit the document.

Action:

- Simon requested feedback from the committee on the words and basic design of these documents.

This feedback was requested to be provided to Simon by 4 April 2008.

Item 3.3 Community Engagement Strategy

1. A draft of the community stakeholder engagement model was provided to the committee, which is the first step in formalising and improving stakeholder engagement for the APVMA.
2. There was discussion on what the committee would like to see within this model to assist them in their role as a committee member.
3. Members were asked if they could provide some examples of models they are aware of that would assist in improving the current communication avenue between CCC and APVMA.
4. There will be common principles between all APVMA committees, although each model will have their own specific details relevant to their own committee.

Actions:

- Members to provide feedback on the draft CES and provide examples/models from your own organisations.
- Members to provide thoughts on a Community Engagement Charter
- Comments on your role as a CCC member and what would assist you to do your job better
- Feedback on the current wording/structure and process of the draft CES

These comments are due to Simon by Thursday 24 April 2008

Item 3.4 AERP Review

1. Elivira Currie briefed the CCC on the AERP Review stating that AERP Ag has been running since 2004. There is concern that there are very few AERP Ag reports.
2. A paper was handed out to CCC advising of the last quarter figures for Veterinary and Agricultural Chemicals reports which were broken down as follows:

	Veterinary	Agricultural
Standard*	1,029	20
Human Health Issues	50	16
Lack of Effect	144	13
Total	1,223	49

*Standard includes Animal Safety (AERP Vet) and crop and Environment (AERP Ag)

3. CCC has again raised their concern that the community needs to know more about the AERP program.

Item 3.5 Chemical Reviews

1. Les Davies briefed the CCC on current key activities and highlights in Chemical Review. These key activities were the 1080 review, 2,4-D and atrazine.
2. The sodium fluoroacetate 1080 review was signed off in May 2007. In January 2008 the APVMA released the 1080 Final Review Report and Regulatory Decision document.
 - a. The review added several new instructions to the container labels to better protect the environment and non-target animals.
 - b. The review also reduced the bait rate to 10/km transect for aerial baiting of wild dogs, with the wording on labels finalised and published on 17 January 2008.
 - c. The review generated quite intense media interest (newspaper and radio), with the APVMA generally being seen to be a 'reasonable' regulator.
3. The APVMA has currently suspended the use of high volatile esters of 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) until April 2009.
4. After six months of extensive discussions between APVMA, DEWHA representatives and industry in WA in relation to a request from CBH for renewal of permits for use of 2,4-D HVEs in WA during the summer season, on 30 January the WA stakeholders were advised by phone and email that a permit would be issued, conditional upon the requirement for regional and local monitoring trials to be underway by a specific date. The APVMA advised that it would also require some additional details on the protocol. A condition of the proposed permit renewal was the requirement to undertake atmospheric monitoring of 2,4-D vapour following application in specific regions. It was explained that the monitoring would help satisfy existing data requirements as part of the review.
5. Jo Immig commented on the community perception that permits are often offered due to political pressure. APVMA responded stating that permits are based on legitimate operational considerations but recognise the perception issue and will endeavour to better explain these details in communicating review outcomes. The need to have the issues clearly communicated via the APVMA website was discussed.

Item 3.6 Altrazine

1. Joan Ashton briefed CCC on the review of atrazine.
2. The final review findings report for atrazine has been delayed due to further consideration of the use of atrazine post-emergence on raised-bed canola crops. The revised review findings effected growers of triazine tolerant (TT) canola in high rainfall areas of southern Australia.
3. The report has now gone out to effected registrants and they have 30 days to provide their amended labels to exclude the use of atrazine on triazine tolerant canola grown on raised beds or agree to provide data.

4. APVMA REPORTS

Item 4.1 Pesticides Program

1. Members NOTED the Pesticides program report

Item 4.2 Veterinary Medicines Program

1. Members NOTED the Veterinary program report

Item 4.3 Regulatory Strategy and Compliance Program

1. Members NOTED the QA&C program report

5. REPORTS OF APVMA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

Item 5.1-5.3 ILC, ITC & RLC

1. CCC NOTED copies of papers from other consultative committees provided for information:
 - a. The approved minutes of RLC 33 [September 2007] and actions from RLC 33 [September 2007]
 - b. The approved outcomes of ITC 23 [September 2007] together with the agenda and actions from ITC 24 [February 2008]
 - c. The approved minutes of ILC 36 [August 2007] and ILC 36 [November 2007]

6. OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING

Item 6.1 Other business/Dates for next meeting

1. David Loschke returned to the CCC to brief members on Nanotechnology as an emerging issue for APVMA stating that there is work being done in the background.
 - a. Any nanotech product must be identified in all applications via a ticking of a box, along the same lines as if an application includes GM technology.
 - b. The APVMA has started some intensive training for staff
 - c. There will be a position policy that will be available as a public document which will outline risks and gaps in relation to Nanotechnology.
 - d. There will be a work in progress (WIP) on the APVMA website around midyear to notify the community that APVMA is aware of nanotechnology and is currently doing something about it.
 - e. Julie Northridge suggested it to go on the website ASAP.
2. CCC AGREED that CCC 47 would be held on Thursday 26 June 2008.
3. The Chair indicated the need to amend the agenda for future meetings to incorporate whether each agenda item is;
 - a. For information
 - b. For decision
 - c. For discussion

Action:

CCC Secretariat to amend CCC 47 Agenda to incorporate this request

4. The Chair stated there would be a verbal summary of actions at the end of future CCC meetings prior to closing the meeting.
5. The Chair gave acknowledgement to Jo Immig for her input into the CCC activities and noted this was her last meeting. The status of some of the other members was still being negotiated, as there were several committee positions vacant. She thanked members for their input in the meeting and closed CCC 46 at 3.00pm.