

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

48TH MEETING – 19 SEPTEMBER 2008

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

Dr Heather Yeatman (Chair)	Public Health Association of Australia
Mr Joe Elbustani	Greenhouse Vegetables Association, NSW Farmers Association
Ms Julie Northridge	National Audit & Registration Agency
Mr Neville Prowse-Brown	Australian Landscape Trust, East Gippsland Landcare Network, Victorian Farmers Federation, East Gippsland District Council, Monash School of Rural Health, East Gippsland Organic Association, Redgum Conservation Management Network
Mr John Temperley	Farmsafe Australia Inc
Mr Peter Cone	Cotton Australia, National Farmers Federation
Mr David Lawson	Australian Consumers Association
Mr Anthony Amis	Friends of the Earth

APVMA

Dr Raj Bhula	Program Manager Pesticides
Dr Simon Cubit	Public Affairs Public Affairs
Dr David Loschke	Principal Scientist
Mrs Elvira Currie (part)	Senior Reviewer AERP
Dr John Paul (part)	Reform Manager
Dr Jamie Nicholls (part)	Regulatory Strategy Project Officer

APOLOGIES

Nil

1. INTRODUCTION

Item 1.1 Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

1. The Chair opened CCC 48 welcoming existing CCC members and APVMA staff. The Chair also welcomed two new CCC members, Mr David Lawson representing Australian Consumers Association and Mr Anthony Amis representing Friends of the Earth.
2. CCC ADOPTED the agenda.
3. APVMA provided all members with information packs on the APVMA consisting of the following documents that can be found on the APVMA website;
 - a. APVMA 2006-07 Annual Report
http://www.apvma.gov.au/publications/annual_reports.shtml
 - b. Introducing the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
<http://www.apvma.gov.au/publications/downloads/introdoc.pdf>
 - c. APVMA 2008-2009 Operational Plan
<http://www.apvma.gov.au/publications/downloads/operationalplan08.pdf>
 - d. An overview of Australia's national system for managing agricultural and veterinary chemicals
http://www.apvma.gov.au/about_us/pdf/overview_agvet_national_system.pdf

Item 1.2 Minutes & resolutions of CCC 46

1. CCC ACCEPTED the report of CCC 47 with some minor editorial changes.

Item 1.3 Actions from previous meetings

1. CCC NOTED the status of actions as follows:
 - CCC 47 Item 1.4/1 – Completed.
 - CCC 47 Item 2.2/1 – Updated at CCC 48 – leave on the action list and request further update at CCC 49.
 - CCC 47 Item 3.1/1 – Still in progress, update action from CCC 48.
 - CCC 47 Item 3.2/1 – Completed.
 - CCC 47 Item 3.4/1 – Still in progress, update action from CCC 48.
 - CCC 47 Item 3.5/1 – Addressed at agenda item 4.1
 - CCC 47 Item 3.5/2 – Addressed at agenda item 4.2
 - CCC 47 Item 6.2/1 – Completed

Item 1.4 CCC correspondence register

1. CCC NOTED the new correspondence register. The chair explained the process of the fortnightly correspondence email with the key principle of keeping members informed of correspondence of interest to the CCC.

2. MEMBERS MATTERS

APVMA explained to the new members the importance of the members' report and the ability to achieve a high quality two-way communication flow between each area of the community that the CCC members represent and the APVMA. Good quality information and consultation is of a high priority to both the community members and the APVMA.

The written members' reports are also helpful for tracking the good progress CCC has with APVMA on the issues being raised. They are also used to help verify out of session activities for which members have made any reimbursement claims.

Item 2.1 Members Reports

Julie Northridge

1. CCC NOTED and thanked Julie for her members report summarising her activities since CCC 47.

Neville Prowse-Brown

1. Neville stated the AERP proposal was discussed with the Board of Latrobe Hospital and they are very interested in the process and have given 'in-principle' agreement to conduct the trial.
2. CCC NOTED and thanked Neville for his written members report which summarises his activities since CCC 47.

Joe Elbustani

1. Joe talked about drumMUSTER and the issues growers face with the limited pick up points available for collection of used drums.
2. Peter Cone advised members that drumMUSTER is a complicated system and that the number of collection points is always an area of complaint. The cost of fuel is a major issue with the collection of used drums and it is not cost effective to operate the current scheme with door-to-door pickups. The running costs are directly linked to the distances travelled for collection.
3. There is also the issue of people complaining about the triple rinsing requirement. If drums are not rinsed to this standard the drums and their contents are classified as hazardous waste. In most state jurisdictions there are regulations regarding the handling and transport of hazardous waste therefore unrinsed drums would not technically be able to be transported by common carriers.
4. CCC NOTED the importance of drumMUSTER continuing to educate people on the importance of not throwing chemical containers into the normal waste or refuse systems and the ability to reuse the plastic and steel through recycling.

David Lawson

1. CCC NOTED and thanked David for his written members report advising his community organisations of his successful nomination to the CCC.

Peter Cone

1. Peter advised members he has recently resigned from Cotton Australia. Peter noted he still has a long-term commitment with the National Farmers Federation and his involvement in developing the code of practice in the use of chemicals and spray drift. He indicated that the Farm Chemicals Committee had been disbanded but that he saw the importance of maintaining links with the various committee members.
2. Peter advised he will still have connections with his members and will contact them separately and will keep them informed of issues.

John Temperley

1. John advised members the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety reported an average of 100 farm related fatalities per year in the period 2001-2004, a decrease from an average of 150 deaths in the period 1989-1992.
2. Between 2001-2004, 35% of traumatic farm deaths were associated with farm plant and machinery.
 - a. 20% of farm injuries presenting to hospital emergency departments were due to farm maintenance activities, with 30% of these injuries involving eye and hand injury.
 - b. 30% of farm deaths involved farm tractors.
 - c. 35% of farm deaths involved farm vehicles, with ATVs causing an average of 12-14 deaths per year. A further 70-90 farmers are killed in vehicle road traffic accidents on public roads each year.
3. Farm safety information is available of the Farmsafe Australia website, www.farmsafe.org.au and the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety website, www.aghealth.org.au
4. The Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety currently has two research projects examining agricultural pesticide safety on Australian farms. These are:
 - a. Examining effects of technology (including GM cotton varieties) on the health and safety of workers in the Australian cotton industry, and
 - b. Examining how well current labels of pesticide products provide risk management advice, the availability of prescribed PPE and the constraints around PPE use on Australian farms. This includes the impact of various worksafe regulations and hazardous substances requirements (MSDS) vs. label directions and their usefulness to users in making decisions on use of products.
5. The results will be presented to a stakeholder meeting (including representatives of APVMA) with a report and recommendations to the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

Anthony Amis

1. Anthony introduced himself to CCC members and provided a brief background on Friends of the Earth and his professional activities therein.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Item 3.1 Emerging issues project

1. The CCC Chair explained the history of the emerging issues project to the new members advising what issues the committee needs to consider, such as;
 - a. What is happening now?
 - b. What do people think is an emerging issue of interest to the community and should it be included in the project?
 - c. To identify and agree on the basic structure required for the project.
 - d. To identify the work that can be completed as a committee and the work that will need to be completed by an external resource and may require funding.
2. CCC AGREED that the framework of the current emerging issues project is good.
3. CCC AGREED to hold a phone conference with APVMA to discuss possible case studies out-of-session, before the next meeting.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CCC members to hold phone link with APVMA to discuss case studies out-of-session.2. CCC members to agree on case studies and content of the emerging issues project and identify which areas of the project will be covered by CCC, and which areas will require funding prior to CCC 49.
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Item 3.2 Harshness indicators project

1. CCC NOTED the draft harshness indicators project on the APVMA 'test' website agreeing it is the simplest, although most powerful, way to get this information across to the general public.
2. APVMA advised this document has been sent to ILC members with comments due by 3 October 2008, APVMA will then forward the updated text to CCC for comment prior to placing on the APVMA website.
3. CCC stated there would still be a need to further educate people about this issue, as this will only target a small amount of people. The idea of a supermarket flyer was raised and the topic of further educating the public will be placed on the next CCC meeting agenda.
4. CCC also agreed there should be:
 - a. Web links within the APVMA document to individual State departments of agriculture websites for further information on understanding product labels.
 - b. A section on the principles for use of chemicals in the home garden, for products such as dog shampoos, flea powders, fly sprays, home and garden sprays etc.

These comments can be considered when consolidating further comments received from ILC and CCC members.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC members to be provided with updated text on 8 October and to provide their comments by 22 October 2008 prior to placing on the APVMA website. 2. CCC secretariat to add item on CCC 49 agenda to include the issue of further educating the public on this item.
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Item 3.3 e-CCChatter

1. CCC AGEED on the new title for the CCC e-bulletin as e-CCChatter.
2. CCC confirmed that the task of writing for the e-CCChatter would be rotated through members at each meeting with a summary of notes discussed at the completion of the meeting. The meeting editor will then work with the Chair to produce the document for publication on the APVMA website.
3. The e-CCChatter banner was discussed during the meeting with APVMA providing examples of different photos and documents. Members agreed on a combination of people and/or agricultural variations, with the possibility of changing it for each edition.
4. CCC also agreed to de-personalise the members' names within e-CCChatter and use the term 'members'.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 4.1 Role of education in APVMA

1. The CCC chair has written to the APVMA CEO enquiring:
 - a. Who is responsible for undertaking an education role for the general public and community regarding use of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines, and;
 - b. To identify the current education gaps.
2. APVMA has requested CCC to provide a paper for discussion on what they see as the current educational requirements around agvet use.

ACTION	1. CCC members to provide a paper for discussion on the education requirements around agvet use for CCC 49.
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Item 4.2 How to engage the regulator in issues of community concern

1. APVMA provided members with a document produced by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) – An overview of Australia's national system for Managing Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals, which provides the community with a document of contacts and roles and regulatory responsibility.
2. The document requires updating as some of the contact numbers have changed since the last print production.

- The current document can be found at the following link:
http://www.apvma.gov.au/about_us/pdf/overview_agvet_national_system.pdf

ACTION	1. APVMA will discuss with DAFF the need for an updated document.
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Item 4.3 Nanotechnology

- CCC NOTED the report on the steps being taken by the APVMA in preparation to regulate agvet products containing nanomaterials.
- APVMA advised there is a link on the ‘hot-topics’ page of the APVMA website outlining the APVMA’s Nanotechnology position paper.
- APVMA also advised the following websites, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/> and National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) <http://www.nicnas.gov.au>, as other departments to keep in mind when looking into issues regarding regulation of Nanotechnology.
- CCC requested APVMA to provide a regular update at meetings on Nanotechnology within the report from the Regulatory Strategy and Compliance Program. CCC also requested APVMA to consider a specific part of the APVMA webpage for nanotechnology issues and documents.
- Anthony provided members with a copy of the Friends of the Earth publication ‘Out of the Laboratory and on to our plates – Nanotechnology in food and Agriculture, March 2008’ for information.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> APVMA to provide a list of contacts/agencies involved with nanotechnology by CCC 49. APVMA to provide regular updates in RS&C program report on Nanotechnology at all CCC meetings.
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Item 4.4 CCC Membership Update

- CCC NOTED the update of the current CCC memberships, in particular the Occupational Health and Safety vacancy, which APVMA will endeavour to fill by CCC 50.

Item 4.5 CRIS Update

- CCC NOTED the CRIS update.

ACTION	1. Secretariat to advise members when the Cost Recovery Impact Statement is available on the website.
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Item 4.6 AERP Update

- APVMA advised CCC members on the status of the AERP review, stating the review is still open for submissions through to 10 October 2008.

2. APVMA also briefed members on their progress in engaging an external consultant to develop a scalable scoping plan for the Latrobe Hospital AERP project.

ACTION	1. APVMA to prepare for members comment by CCC 49, a plan for the Latrobe Hospital AERP project, with a view to implement by Autumn 2009.
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Item 4.7 Conflict of Interest Procedures for Consultative Committees

1. CCC NOTED the paper and update provided on conflict of interest procedures.

ACTION	1. Secretariat to distribute conflict of interest forms out-of-session to members for completion prior to CCC 49.
	2. Secretariat to add a new item to the meeting agenda capturing the declaration of financial interests.

5. APVMA REPORTS

Item 5.1 Pesticides Program

1. Members NOTED the Pesticides program report.

Item 5.2 Veterinary Medicines Program

1. Members NOTED the Veterinary Medicines program report.

Item 5.3 Regulatory Strategy and Compliance Program

1. Members NOTED the Regulatory Strategy and Compliance program report.

6. APVMA COMMITTEE UPDATES

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 34 [March 2008]
 - b. The approved minutes of ITC 24 [February 2008] and actions from ITC 25 [June 2008]
 - c. The approved minutes of ILC 38 [April 2008] and actions from ILC 39 [August 2008]

7. OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING

Item 7.1 Other business/date for next meeting

1. CCC AGREED CCC 49 would be held on Wednesday 3 December with Christmas drinks following in the evening.
2. CCC discussed the possibility of holding a half-day meeting prior to CCC 50 to discuss the Emerging Issues paper; this will be confirmed at the completion of CCC 49.
3. CCC discussed the possibility of holding one or two CCC meetings interstate during 2009 rotating through members locations and giving members the opportunity to show them around their farms or other areas of interest to the committee.
4. CCC also discussed the opportunity to invite Office of Chemical Safety, Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries to a CCC meeting during 2009.
5. CCC has request an update on the labelling committee at CCC 49.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Secretariat to advise members of 2009 CCC meeting dates.2. APVMA to provide labelling committee update at CCC 49.
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The chair thanked members for their attendance and input to the meeting and closed CCC 48 at 3.30pm.