

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

## 49<sup>TH</sup> MEETING – 3 December 2008

### ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS

Dr Heather Yeatman (Chair)	Public Health Association of Australia
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 (part)	Public Affairs Manager
Dr David Loschke	Principal Scientist, Pesticides
Mrs Elvira Currie (part)	Senior Reviewer AERP
Mr Les Davies (part)	Chemical Review Manager
Ms Joan Ashton (part)	Chemical Review

#### VISITOR

Ms Jenni Mack (part)	Advisory Board member
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#### APOLOGIES

Mr Joe Elbustani	Greenhouse Vegetables Association, NSW Farmers Association
Ms Julie Northridge	National Audit & Registration Agency

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **Item 1.1 Welcome and Adoption of Agenda**

1. The Chair opened CCC49 welcoming CCC members and APVMA staff.
2. Apologies were noted for Joe Elbustani and Julie Northridge.
3. CCC ADOPTED the agenda.
  - a. APVMA provided all members with an information booklet on the Community Consultative Committee

### **Item 1.2 Minutes & resolutions of CCC48**

1. CCC ACCEPTED the report of CCC48 with some minor editorial changes.

### **Item 1.3 Actions from previous meetings**

1. CCC NOTED the status of actions as follows:
  - CCC48 Item 3.1 - In progress, to be completed by CCC50
  - CCC48 Item 3.2 - Completed
  - CCC48 Item 4.1 - In progress
  - CCC48 Item 4.2 - Completed
  - CCC48 Item 4.3 - Completed
  - CCC48 Item 4.5 - Completed
  - CCC48 Item 4.6 - In progress
  - CCC48 Item 4.7 - Completed
  - CCC48 Item 7.1(a) - Completed
  - CCC48 Item 7.1(b) - In progress

### **Item 1.4 CCC correspondence register**

1. CCC NOTED the correspondence register and requested the CCC secretariat to resend the *EU policy for a sustainable use of pesticides* to all CCC members.

### **Item 1.5 Declaration of financial interest**

1. CCC noted standing disclosure of relevant direct or indirect financial interests declarations returned by:
  - a. Neville Prowse-Brown
  - b. David Lawson
  - c. Anthony Amis
2. APVMA advised members if they have not yet submitted their declarations they will need to do so ASAP.

## **2. MEMBERS REPORTS**

### **Item 2.1 Members Reports**

#### **David Lawson**

1. CCC NOTED and thanked David for his members report summarising his activities since CCC48.

## Anthony Amis

1. Anthony provided members with an update on his activities since the last CCC meeting, in particular his networking amongst FOE members and providing information handouts relating to APVMA.
2. CCC also NOTED the extensive research Anthony has undertaken in relation to his papers on timber treatment and simazine, which will be addressed under Agenda Item 4.
3. Anthony also highlighted his interest in the commencement of water testing in Victoria.
4. APVMA advised members that the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines will be updated with the revision of Chapter 8: Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals, and the associated 34 fact sheets. The current (unrevised) guidelines are available at the following website;  
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/eh19syn.htm>  
APVMA will keep members informed when the revision has been completed.

## Peter Cone

1. Peter advised members that the current spray drift season has been a very good season compared to the previous year.
2. Peter is optimistic that incidents will be reduced thanks to the good measures taken and the effort of the APVMA and industry groups to address the issue of spray drift.
3. The National Farmers Federation is taking a lead on the issue with formal policy development on spray drift now being available.

## John Temperley

1. John provided CCC members with the following publications for their information:
  - a. preventing falls for older farmers
  - b. the great idea bank – making farm work easier as we get older , and;
  - c. future farmers – a rural health and safety resource for high school students
2. These documents can be located on the following websites;  
<http://www.aghealth.org.au/> and <http://www.farmsafe.org.au>

ACTION	1. John to provide a summary of the documents for e-CCChatter.
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## Neville Prowse-Brown

1. Neville advised members the Latrobe Hospital is still looking forward to the trial promotion of the AERP, and are awaiting further information from APVMA.
2. Neville is also currently looking into reported incidences of melamine and cyanuric acid in plants, and the Chinese milk products.
3. The latest WHO report on melamine and cyanuric acid can be found at;  
[http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs\\_management/Melamine.pdf](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/Melamine.pdf)

## Item 2.2 External communication to CCC members

1. Members AGREED to continue receiving communication from previous CCC members and are satisfied with the current process of all communication to be distributed through the CCC secretariat.

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING

#### Item 3.1 Emerging issues project

1. CCC discussed the current emerging issues and agreed that the agenda for CCC50 be centred on a planning day discussing the priority list for CCC, these will include;
  - a. work plan
    - i. control of use issues
    - ii. reduced risk chemistry
  - b. education – making better use of APVMA resources, such as the website
  - c. role of CCC within APVMA – how best to use the APVMA's expertise and resources covering;
    - i. operational issues, specific issues and the processes of the CCC
    - ii. the role of the CCC has been based on the same model for a number of years with some restraints – it is time to review this
  - d. databases/information linkage – a task to join together all information available to the community

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Education mapping exercise – David Lawson and Peter Cone to prepare a paper for an APVMA response.</li><li>2. Database/information linkage – Anthony Amis to start work on gathering the current information available.</li><li>3. Role of CCC within APVMA – how best to use the APVMA expertise – Heather Yeatman, Jenni Mack and Simon Cubit to outline a model.</li><li>4. CCC to invite Dr Eva Bennet-Jenkins APVMA CEO to the CCC50 planning meeting.</li></ol>
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#### Item 3.2 Harshness indicators project – further educating the public

1. Members NOTED the paper provided on the harshness indicators project advising:
  - a. comments have been received from ILC and CCC members
  - b. comments will be reviewed with the Chemical Review Manager
  - c. harshness indicators document to be placed on the APVMA website in January 2009

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. APVMA to advise CCC members when the harshness indicators document is on the APVMA website.</li></ol>
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#### Item 3.3 Education requirements for agvet use

1. Members noted the notes prepared by David Lawson on the spectrum of educational requirements required for agvet use in the community.
2. Members discussed the need to carry out a mapping exercise on the existing education roles currently in place in the different agencies and departments relevant to the work of the APVMA.
  - a. at the completion of the mapping exercise any gaps in the education process will be identified
  - b. once identified, APVMA will be able to clearly acknowledge their role in the community with respect to education
  - c. end goal is to have a page on the APVMA website with all the relevant links and information
3. John Temperley acknowledged the utility of the pubcris database on the APVMA website stating it is an exceptional database consisting of a great deal of available information.

- a. members discussed the possible opportunity, with the APVMA website upgrade, of placing pubcris on the front page with a new name and link to make it more user friendly and easily identifiable
- b. members also discussed the opportunity for pubcris to be publicised as a 'one-stop shop' with all the information required on registered products

ACTION	1. David Lawson to further develop his paper as the basis for discussing education matters at the planning meeting.
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### **Item 3.4 CCC Recruitment**

- 1. Members NOTED the update provided on recruitment, acknowledging the responses received from Mr Neville Prowse Brown and Mr John Temperley accepting another term on the CCC.
- 2. Recruitment for the vacancies of the OH & S and Education positions will commence in 2009.

### **Item 3.5 Distribution of e-CCChatter**

- 1. Members NOTED the first distributed edition of e-CCChatter.

## **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Item 4.1 CRIS Updates**

- 1. Members NOTED the update provided on the cost recovery impact statement including the revised release date of 3 December 2008.
- 2. The draft CRIS is located on the APVMA website [www.apvma.gov.au/about\\_us/costrecovery.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/about_us/costrecovery.shtml)
- 3. Members were encouraged to relay the CRIS information to their organisations and encourage them to put in a submission. The closing date for submissions is Friday 20 February 2009.

ACTION	1. Members to relay the CRIS information to their organisations and encourage them to put in a submission before Friday 20 February 2009.
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### **Item 4.2 AERP update**

- 1. APVMA provided CCC members with a summary of AERP reports received in the first quarter of 2008/09 financial year.
- 2. APVMA also advised that the AERP review has closed for public comment. There were eight submissions received with a range of comments.
- 3. The trial promotion of the AERP in Gippsland is still progressing, with further scoping required.

### **Item 4.3 Simazine**

- 1. CCC member Anthony Amis presented a paper to APVMA on the review of simazine outlining:
  - a. the issue of simazine registrations for use in swimming pools in Australia and issues of urban runoff with simazine registered for use in driveways
- 2. The paper presented a range of questions to the APVMA and provided information on the calculations of potential exposure risk for children and adults via dermal and some oral exposure to simazine in swimming pools.
- 3. Also raised in the paper were the environmental threats to waterways that simazine presents, including stormwater and groundwater which may be contained and recycled in future. In Melbourne, and probably other cities, a portion (~5000ha+) of

the domestic water supply consists of suburbs where it is highly likely that simazine is used. The paper states;

- a. there has never been a review by the APVMA of simazine
- b. APVMA should introduce a restricted label condition on the use of simazine products and cancel registration for simazine products used in swimming pools
- c. the effect of a restricted label use would be to limit simazine products to certain industries and prevent public usage (i.e. driveway weeder)
  - i. the measures could be similar to earlier actions taken by the APVMA on restricted use of atrazine products
- d. CCC members thanking Anthony for raising these issues

#### **Item 4.4 Treated timber**

1. Anthony Amis also presented a paper on the current concerns from the public in relation to treated timber, noting the Australian Standards AS 1604 for wood treatment still lists in table C1 a number of dangerous wood preservatives. The following were raised as being of concern:
  - a. creosote
  - b. tributyltin naphthenate and tributyltin oxide
  - c. cypermethrin
  - d. pentachlorophenol
2. Also raised was the issue of compliance by treatment plants with Australian Standards and revised use restrictions. Some treatment plants have not been upgraded to comply with new Australian standards.
  - a. treatment plants to follow new safety precautions as detailed on the label
  - b. copper chrome arsenate (CCA) timber preservatives are supposed to be declared as restricted chemical products (RCP). When this occurs the treatment plants will have to comply with Australian Standards
3. Anthony requested a progress report from the APVMA on the outcome of the status of the declaration of RCP for the treated timber industry.
4. CCC members thanking Anthony for raising these issues.

#### **Item 4.5 Labelling committee update**

1. APVMA advised the labelling committee has not met for a period of at least 18 months.
2. APVMA will prepare a report and presentation to CCC members on the labelling committee. This will include an update on DAFF and APVMA activities related to COAG recommendations following from the Productivity Commission recommendations in the Report on Chemicals and Plastics Regulation.

<b>ACTION</b>	1. APVMA to provide a report and presentation to CCC members on the labelling committee DAFF and APVMA response to the Productivity Commission recommendation at CCC51.
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#### **Item 4.6 APVMA response to discussion item on treated timber products**

1. APVMA presented a paper that acknowledged the concerns expressed in the paper on treated timber written by Anthony Amis. .
2. In relation to the concerns raised with cypermethrin and pentachlorophenol;
  - a. currently there are no timber treatment products containing cypermethrin registered in Australia, and;
  - b. currently there are no pesticide products, including timber preservatives, containing pentachlorophenol registered in Australia

- c. should any new application for registration of products containing cypermethrin and pentachlorophenol come to the APVMA in future, the applicant would need to submit a full data package demonstrating safety and efficacy. The APVMA would assess the data package applying contemporary standards
- 3. In October 2004 the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee (NDPSC) reviewed the safety of creosotes and their scheduling. The result of the review was that creosote derived from coal and beechwood was rescheduled and placed in Schedule 7 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SSDP), based on concerns about carcinogenicity. As a result of the rescheduling:
  - a. creosote products used for the treatment of timber can no longer be supplied for use around the home
  - b. products are restricted for use in agricultural, industrial and commercial situations
- 4. APVMA advised members that Australia was one of the first countries to sign *The International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships 2001*. As part of the implementation of the requirements of the Convention, in 2003 the APVMA cancelled the registrations of antifouling paint products containing tributyltin for marine uses.
- 5. APVMA notified members of the process of declaring any chemical as an RCP which involves a number of steps, and as a result an RCP declaration is unlikely to take place for a number of months. When APVMA has new information in relation to the CCA review or the declaration of the RCP status, the information will become available on the APVMA website and CCC members will be notified.

**Item 4.7 APVMA response to discussion item on simazine**

- 1. APVMA thanked Anthony Amis for his thorough and considered paper on simazine, stating APVMA will address the issues raised and provide a written reply to clarify what action has been taken and what action can be expected to be taken.

ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. APVMA to provide a written response to all issues raised in Anthony's paper on simazine and distribute to CCC members and the former CCC chair Ms Jenni Mack.</li> <li>2. APVMA to provide OCS with Anthony's paper and APVMA's reply and response for their comments.</li> </ul>
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**5. APVMA REPORTS**

**Item 5.1 Pesticides Program**

- 1. Members NOTED the Pesticides program report and requested further information on the regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) noting at the meeting held in Melbourne in October 2008 it was resolved:
  - a. that the roles, processes and procedures of the various agencies (OGTR, APVMA and FSANZ) involved with the regulation of GMOs would be examined
  - b. CCC members requested an APVMA staff person to come and explain the GMO process for registration

ACTION	1. APVMA to provide an explanation of the GMO process at CCC51.
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2. The APVMA advised members that the Science Fellows Symposium “Current Topics In Understanding Pesticide Risks” will be held in Canberra on Monday 30 March 2009 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre Black Mountain.
  - a. registrations will open in mid January 2009 at which time a detailed program will also be available
  - b. for information on the Symposium please visit [http://www.apvma.gov.au/new/science\\_news.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/new/science_news.shtml)

ACTION	1. CCC secretariat to register members' attendance at the Symposium.
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## **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.
2. APVMA advised members the rural engagement project, refining how to better communicate with the rural community, has been approved.
  - a. a position will be based in Public Affairs for a 4-5 month period to complete the project
  - b. APVMA will provide a synopsis of the project once it is underway to keep members informed
  - c. recruitment for the position has commenced with the position likely to be filled in early in 2009

## **6. APVMA COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Item 6.1-6.3 ILC, ITC & RLC**

1. CCC NOTED copies of papers from other consultative committees provided for information:
  - a. the approved minutes of RLC34 [March 2008] and actions from RLC35 [September 2008]
  - b. the approved minutes of ITC25 [June 2008] and actions from ITC26 [September 2008]
  - c. the approved minutes of ILC39 [August 2008] and actions from ILC39 [August 2008]

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING**

### **Item 7.1 Other business/date for next meeting**

1. CCC AGREED CCC50 would be a planning meeting and held on Tuesday 31 March 2009 so members are able to attend the Science Fellow Symposium in Canberra on Monday 30 March 2009. APVMA will register CCC members for the Science Fellows Symposium when registrations open.

### **Item 7.2 Media summary**

1. Members NOTED the media summary provided for the period September – November 2008.

The chair thanked members for their attendance and input to the meeting and closed CCC49 at 4.00pm.