

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

50<sup>TH</sup> MEETING – 31 March 2009

## 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	National Farmers Federation
Mr David Lawson	Australian Consumers Association
Mr Anthony Amis	Friends of the Earth
Mr Joe Elbustani	Greenhouse Vegetables Association, NSW Farmers Association
Ms Julie Northridge	National Audit & Registration Agency

### APVMA

Dr Raj Bhula	Program Manager Pesticides
Dr Simon Cubit (part)	Public Affairs Manager
Dr David Loschke (part)	Principal Scientist, Pesticides
Mrs Elvira Currie (part)	Senior Reviewer AERP
Ms Kirsty Fraser (part)	AERP
Mr Les Davies (part)	Chemical Review Manager
Ms Joanne Mitchell (part)	Corporate Services Program Manager
Ms Felicity McDonald (part)	Public Affairs
Ms Eva Bennet-Jenkins (part)	CEO
Mr James Suter (part)	A/Veterinary Medicines Program Manager

### APOLOGIES

Nil

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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

1. The Chair opened CCC50 at 9.05am welcoming CCC members and APVMA staff.
2. CCC ADOPTED the agenda.

### **Item 1.2 Minutes & resolutions of CCC49**

1. CCC ACCEPTED the report of CCC49.

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

1. CCC NOTED the status of actions as follows:
  - CCC49 Item 2.1 - Completed
  - CCC49 Item 3.1 –
    - (a) Addressed at agenda item 3.1
    - (b) Addressed at agenda item 3.2
    - (c) Addressed at agenda item 3.3
    - (d) Completed – invited to attend during agenda item 7.
  - CCC49 Item 3.2 – Completed, will be visible on the new website when released in April 2009.
  - CCC49 Item 3.3 - Completed
  - CCC49 Item 4.1 - Completed
  - CCC49 Item 4.5 – Due CCC51
  - CCC48 Item 4.6 – Addressed at agenda item 4.2
  - CCC49 Item 4.7 - Completed
  - CCC49 Item 5.1 (1) – Due CCC51
  - CCC49 Item 5.1 (2)- Completed

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

1. CCC NOTED the correspondence register.

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

1. CCC NOTED standing disclosures of relevant direct or indirect financial interests declarations returned by:
  - a. Julie Northridge
  - b. Joe Elbustani
2. All current CCC members have now completed a standing declaration of financial interests.

### **Item 1.6 Corporate Objectives**

1. CCC NOTED the new APVMA Corporate Objectives provided to members at the meeting.
2. CCC will conduct a teleconference on 15 April 2009 to discuss CCC contributions to the APVMA corporate plan and provide this to the APVMA for consideration.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. CCC secretariat to organise a teleconference for members on 15 April 2009 to discuss CCC contributions to the APVMA corporate plan.</li><li>2. CCC Chair to circulate dot points on the focus discussion to members prior to 15 April 2009.</li></ol>
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## 2. MEMBERS REPORTS

### Item 2.1 Members Reports

#### David Lawson

1. David advised he has been working on the education mapping exercise since the last CCC and will continue to work on the paper from information discussed at this meeting.

#### Anthony Amis

1. Anthony advised CCC members he has been following up on the Simazine responses from APVMA in relation to simazine in swimming pools, which will be addressed at agenda item 2.2.
2. He also reported on some investigations into tree plantations in Tasmania and aerial spraying of alpha-cypermethrin, which ended up in waterways. He also attended a Community Forum in Tasmania that involved Jo Immig and Tyrone Hayes.
3. Anthony showed members a booklet provided by the National Toxics Network called The Threat of Pesticide Spray Drift advising for a copy to contact the National Toxics Network via Jo Immig or [www.ntn.org.au](http://www.ntn.org.au)

ACTION	1. CCC secretariat to organise copies of The Threat of Pesticide Spray Drift booklet for members.
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#### Julie Northridge

1. Julie provided members with views on the following in relation to education;
  - a. lack of national uniform control-of-use regulations which continues to prove difficult for growers, regulators and educators
  - b. education is the key and must be provided alongside effective enforcement and regulation
  - c. would like to see the APVMA as a national point of contact with some consistency in control of use and some consistency in penalties and sanctions

#### Peter Cone

1. CCC NOTED and thanked Peter for his written members report advising;
  - a. during the last quarter northwest NSW has received good rain, this increase has seen a move towards more weed control activity. The increase in ground based farmer operated pesticide application has continued which indicates a need for stronger focus on improving and maintaining farmer pesticide application knowledge and skills
  - b. Peter noted, despite widespread media campaigns and awareness programs from various producer groups and industry bodies, the level of incidence of damage from Phenoxy type herbicide drift continues without significant change, advising;
    - i. this is becoming a major issue across farming enterprises with major financial impacts being reported by industries such as cotton
    - ii. indications are that actions such as pesticide label amendments and industry education programs alone are not having the desired level of effect
    - iii. this issue has probably reached a point where the causes of the problem need to be examined in much greater detail in order to find more satisfactory solutions

- c. Peter also recently participated in a small working group co-ordinated by the APVMA to consider submissions in response to the APVMA AERP Ag Registrants Review

**John Temperley**

- 1. John advised CCC members the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety hosted a forum to present their research on Effectiveness of Risk Control Measures to Reduce Occupational Exposure to Pesticides and to consider their recommendations.
- 2. The aim of the research was to assist farmers in Australian agricultural industries to effectively reduce risks of harmful exposure to pesticides by investigating and reporting on;
  - a. how well the label safety instructions of pesticides registered for use in Australia align with best practice in OHS risk management
  - b. how well pesticides handlers in key industries comply with label specifications for safety and what are the impediments to compliance with label directions, and
  - c. the availability and accessibility to farmers of the range of effective personal protective (PPE) clothing and equipment for use when handling pesticides
- 3. John advised members he will provide a full report of the forum, recommendations and findings out-of-session.

<b>ACTION</b>	1. John to provide a full report, recommendations and findings of the forum on Effectiveness of Risk Control Measures to Reduce Occupational Exposure to members and a summary of the documents for e-ccchatter.
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**Joe Elbustani**

- 1. Joe advised members;
  - a. there is good reception for harmonisation between states from growers
  - b. with a government agenda of deregulation, less assistance from State government for growers
  - c. 90% of growers are not aware that the APVMA exists
  - d. industry pushing hard for compulsory registration for food producers
  - e. information of changes do not reach the growers because of their lack of awareness of the APVMA

**Neville Prowse-Brown**

- 1. CCC NOTED and thanked Neville for his written members report summarising his activities since CCC49; advising there is little to report this quarter in relation to the Latrobe Hospital meeting of the Community Advisory Committee as due to the recent fires in Victoria, this meeting was postponed. Other organisations are on hold for the same reason.
- 2. Neville also advised members Kirsty Fraser from APVMA had recently been in East Gippsland assisting with the development of the project proposal for the trial promotional activity to help raise awareness of the AERP-Ag Program.

**Heather Yeatman**

- 1. Heather advised members she recently attended the Effectiveness of Risk Control Measures to Reduce Occupational Exposure to Pesticides hosted by the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety as mentioned in the update from John Temperley. Along with finding it very interesting, once the report is available from John there may be several areas of possible action for the CCC. Along with several

other CCC member, Heather attended the Scientific forum on the previous day, which was both informative and useful for the work of the CCC.

## **Item 2.2 Simazine**

1. Anthony Amis provided CCC with a paper, which is a short addition to the comments provided by APVMA on the *Request APVMA review of Simazine* paper presented to the CCC by Anthony Amis at CCC49 (3 December 2008).
2. APVMA responded advising;
  - a. the issue of controlling public health in swimming pools is an important one
  - b. Anthony has raised some valid and interesting points
  - c. the question in relation to the previous assessments of swimming pools has been referred to OCS
  - d. questions provided at this meeting will be referred to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, OCS and the Department of Health and Ageing for further assessment
3. APVMA advised CCC the 2007 World Health Organisation has provided a summary assessment on Atrazine and this will be distributed to CCC members at the completion of this meeting.

ACTION	1. APVMA to provide CCC with a copy of the 2007 atrazine report from the WHO/FAO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) out of session.
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## **3. PLANNING**

### **Item 3.1 Role of CCC within APVMA**

1. CCC discussed their role within APVMA, with the following outcomes;
  - a. the role of the CCC is to advise APVMA what is being discussed within the community in relation to issues relevant to the functions of the APVMA
  - b. to provide feedback to the public on the APVMA
  - c. to advise APVMA of the community view of the regulator
2. The CCC needs to feel confident in what they are doing, how they are actually positioned within the APVMA compared to other consultative committees and how other APVMA committees view them and their work.
3. CCC feels they need to become more educated by becoming more familiar with:
  - a. the APVMA's legal framework and registrant requirements
  - b. the roles of States and Territories and how far-reaching their role is, with discussion surrounding the prospect of inviting an RLC member to a forthcoming CCC meeting to inform members of the RLC role in assisting the APVMA

### **Item 3.2 Education mapping exercise**

1. CCC discussed the education mapping exercise, in particular;
  - a. the lack of national uniform control-of-use regulations
  - b. how do we quality assure the delivery of user training and accreditation provided under state based programs?
  - c. education in relation to regulation – with a focus on the users in particular
  - d. vocation educational sector – a national framework
  - e. what are the educational aspects and how can we take them forward?
  - f. Information education in the following areas;
    - i. community

- ii. farmer
  - iii. service provider
  - iv. professional educational programs
2. David Lawson will take into consideration the above questions and prepare a draft framework on advice to the CCC for issues of education and information, also taking into account and providing detail on what a future educational structure might look at.

ACTION	1. David Lawson to continue preparing the draft framework on education for CCC51.
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### **Item 3.3 Pesticide database**

1. Anthony Amis advised members he is still working on this item, seeking:
  - a. what information is out there, how APVMA is placed in relation to other sources on the internet and to see where and how it can be improved
2. Anthony will provide CCC with more information at CCC51.

### **Item 3.4 Specific areas to discuss at forthcoming meetings**

1. CCC decided a specific topic should be discussed and worked through at each meeting to achieve more defined outcomes.
2. The main topic to be discussed at CCC51 is the draft framework for education.

## **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Item 4.1 CRIS Update**

1. CCC NOTED the update on the cost recovery review provided by APVMA advising:
  - a. submissions on the Draft CRIS closed on 20 February 2009
  - b. 46 submissions were received, with a large proportion received from industry groups
  - c. 57% of submissions opposed the increase in minor use permit fees. Other issues that attracted comment include concern about increased fees in the current financial climate, calls for a review of the National Registration Scheme and its legislation, comment about the fee/levy balance and the impact on industry and growers
  - d. following consideration of issues raised in the Draft CRIS submissions; the APVMA will prepare the Final CRIS
  - e. prior to public release, the Final CRIS will be:
    - i. considered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation for compliance with the Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines (July 2005);
    - ii. certified by the CEO; and
    - iii. agreed by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
  - f. release of the Final CRIS is expected in May 2009
    - i. updates on the review's progress and the release of the Final CRIS will be communicated to the APVMA's four consultative committees and through website updates, Gazette Notices, emails to subscribers and letters to all registrants and approval holders
  - g. implementation of revised arrangements is likely to be staggered. The Final CRIS will include an implementation timetable and stakeholders will be notified to the impending changes in advance. The APVMA is proposing:
    - i. application fees, fee for submission of voluntary data and indexation are introduced three months after the Minister's agreement

- ii. all other changes are introduced on 1 July 2010

#### **Item 4.2 AERP update**

APVMA briefed CCC members on an AERP update indicating:

1. A letter was sent to all registrants on 13/8/08 reminding them that their Periodic Summary Updates (PSUs) should be submitted. Approx 400 registrants responded of the 860 contacted, with an overwhelming number stating they had nothing to report.
2. Registrants were also informed of the review of the registrant component of the AERP-Ag, requesting comments, with a total of 7 registrants providing submissions to the review.
3. The APVMA has engaged several people to be involved in the AERP-Ag Review with Peter Cone representing the CCC. Discussions relating to the questions raised in the scoping document were held on 25/2/09. The draft review document is now in preparation.
4. Key APVMA staff and Neville Prowse-Brown have developed the draft proposal for a trial promotional activity in East Gippsland to help raise awareness of the AERP-Ag program, which will now go to the APVMA executive management for approval.
5. Following approval of the proposal the following steps will be undertaken:
  - a. an APVMA stand at the East Gippsland Field Day on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009
  - b. meeting times will be prepared from the contact list with face to face meetings as well as group information sessions
  - c. an information pack will be prepared for distribution
  - d. AERP forms will be re-evaluated and re-designed in a simpler format to encourage people to report any AERPs

#### **Item 4.3 New APVMA website**

1. APVMA provided CCC members with a demonstration of the new APVMA website advising;
  - a. there will be an improvement in website structure
  - b. removing duplicated and outdated content
  - c. enhance functionality and meet government and international standards
2. APVMA is currently in the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the review of the new website and is proposing an April release.
3. APVMA noted CCC's views on the new website. CCC advised APVMA they thought there should be a statement on the 'role of APVMA' or APVMA values and core tenants on the front page of the new website introducing the APVMA.
4. CCC indicated they thought the new website was very clear and more user friendly and are looking forward to the release in April.

### **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 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 RLC35 [September 2008] and actions from RLC35 [September 2008]
  - b. the approved minutes of ITC26 [September 2008] and actions from ITC27 [February 2009]
  - c. the approved minutes of ILC39 [August 2008] and actions from ILC40 [November 2008]

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING

### Item 7.1 APVMA CEO

The APVMA CEO was invited to CCC50 to discuss concerns raised through the CCC; the following points were discussed;

1. APVMA corporate planning process;
  - a. invitations for submissions were sent to organisations not committees
  - b. discussions with the APVMA Advisory Board were held in December 2008, February 2009 and will be meeting again in April 2009
  - c. APVMA welcomes CCC views on major issues within the functions and powers applicable to the APVMA as of now (not including control of use)
2. Progression of project areas and working groups:
  - a. APVMA noted the CCC's concerns on hearing 'to a point' where projects are up to, although not hearing why they are not progressing, due to resource constraints or lack of available staff
  - b. CCC would like APVMA to communicate on how projects are managed, what timeframes are expected and an understanding of why priorities have changed
  - c. APVMA indicated these will be discussed at the upcoming ILC meeting and APVMA will provide an update at CCC51

ACTION	1. APVMA to provide an update of the progression, timeframes and priorities for projects and working groups at CCC51 after reassessing priorities.
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3. What does APVMA see as being the role of the CCC:
  - a. the CCC is viewed as a productive and constructive contribution as the eyes and ears within the community
4. How does the APVMA Advisory Board view the role of the CCC?

ACTION	1. APVMA to update CCC on how the Advisory Board views the role of the CCC at CCC51.
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5. The APVMA CEO and CCC Chair confirmed they will arrange a time to touch base between meetings to discuss issues in relation to the CCC.

ACTION	1. APVMA CEO to arrange time to meet with CCC Chair in between CCC meetings.
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### Item 7.2 CCC Recruitment

1. CCC Noted the paper provided on CCC recruitment advising;

- a. CCC50 is the last meeting for Ms Julie Northridge
- b. APVMA has advertised for the recruitment of the OH&S and Education positions in The Australian on 28 February 2009 and the regulatory update and APVMA website on 27 February 2009
- c. Applications closed on 27 March 2009 with a view to have the positions filled by CCC51

**Item 7.3 Media summary**

1. There was no paper provided for the media summary for the period December 2008 - February 2009.

**Item 7.4 Brief on Special Expert Advisory Panel Meeting**

1. The A/Veterinary Medicines Program Manager briefed members on a special meeting to be held on 15 April 2009 with the Veterinary Medicines Expert Advisory Panel, which will address the issues of over vaccination, which have been raised by a member of the public through David Lawson.
2. The outcome of the meeting will be circulated to members via the CCC Secretariat.

<b>ACTION</b>	1. Outcomes of Special Expert Advisory Panel Meeting to be distributed to CCC members via the secretariat.
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**Other business/date for next meeting**

1. CCC AGREED CCC51 would be held on 25 June 2009.
2. CCC members thanked APVMA for the invitation to the Science Symposium and congratulated them on a very informative and well-run event.
3. The chair thanked Ms Julie Northridge for her contribution to CCC during her three-year term and wished her well in the future.

The chair thanked members for their attendance and input and closed CCC50 at 3.15pm.