



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
53rd MEETING – 2 December 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 David Lawson	Australian Consumers Association
Mr Anthony Amis	Friends of the Earth
Mr Joe Elbustani	Greenhouse Vegetables Association, NSW Farmers Association
Mr John Mills	TAFENSW
Mr Peter Cone	National Farmers Federation
Mrs Heather Wieland	Country Women's Association of Australia

APVMA

Dr Raj Bhula	Program Manager Pesticides
Ms Felicity McDonald	Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Ms Elvira Currie (part)	Senior Review AERP
Mr Taseer Bashir (part)	AERP
Dr Simon Cubit (part)	Public Affairs Manager
Dr Eva Bennet Jenkins (part)	APVMA CEO

APOLOGIES

Dr David Loschke	Principal Scientist, Pesticides
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1. INTRODUCTION

Item 1.1 Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

1. The Chair opened CCC53 at 9.00am and welcomed existing CCC members, APVMA staff and introduced new CCC member Mrs Heather Wieland.
2. CCC ADOPTED the agenda with the addition of the Website Manager to provide an overview of the new website under agenda item 7.

Item 1.2 Minutes & resolutions of CCC52

1. CCC ACCEPTED the report of CCC52 with minor editorial changes.
2. Neville Prowse-Brown requested feedback on the following suggestions he raised at CCC52;
 - a. requesting all providers of chemical education awareness programs to insert into their manuals a page on the working and role of the chemical regulator, including a tear out copy of the AERP form
 - b. contact to be made with all Universities and Medical Teaching Institutions to include an awareness of the AERP in their curriculum
 - c. APVMA staff attending Chemical Provider Conferences
3. APVMA advised there is a discussion paper on the AERP being presented at the APVMA Advisory Board meeting on 4 December 2009. The paper requested consideration of ways to promote and improve the AERP and in particular to modify the Ag AERP. The paper includes all of the suggestions raised at CCC52.
4. John Mills advised all SMARTtrain resources used nationally and developed through the DPI in NSW now have an AERP form as an insert in their training resources. SmartTrain resources are used in various institutions in NT, SA, QLD, WA and NSW.
5. CCC discussed the distribution of APVMA information brochures and fact sheets:
 - a. APVMA advised all brochures and fact sheets are available on the APVMA website allowing anyone to print the required document at their convenience
 - b. members feel the issue of provision of information in relation to the safe use of agriculture and veterinary chemicals is very important to the end user. The committee believes APVMA should have further discussions in relation to the printing and distribution of information rather than just having the information available on the APVMA website, as this relates to the importance of the communication and information role of the authority.

Item 1.3 Actions from previous meetings

1. CCC NOTED the status of actions as follows:
 - CCC49 Item 3.1 –
 - (a) addressed at agenda item 3.1

- (b) discuss with APVMA CEO at agenda item 7 – remove from action list
- CCC50 Item 7.1(4) – advisory board view on the role of the CCC – CCC Chair discussed with APVMA CEO previously and will follow up at agenda item 7 – remove from action list
- CCC51 Item 3.2 – draft framework for education - addressed at agenda item 3.2 – remove from action list
- CCC51 Item 4.4 – APVMA to provide CCC with an updated list of projects and working groups at CCC55 – due June 2010
- CCC52 Item 1.4 –
 - (1) secretariat to provide members with a copy of the RSPCA correspondence - completed
 - (2) APVMA Principal Scientist to look at RSPCA model and discuss the perceived usefulness with members at CCC53 – ongoing
- CCC52 Item 2.1 – Provide Joe Elbustani with contact details of consultant responsible for the development of the proposal for the new regulatory framework – completed
- CCC52 Item 2.1 – Eucmix GR – can it be applied within 10m of snig tracks – ongoing
- CCC52 Item 4.1 – CropLife discussion – CCC Chair to follow up with APVMA CEO – completed
- CCC52 Item 4.2 – AERP Update – APVMA to provide members with URL link to the AVA policy on vaccination of dogs and cats – completed
- CCC52 Item 4.3 –
 - (1) CCC Recruitment – provide members with Business Consultation website URL – completed
 - (2) CCC Recruitment – secretariat to provide members with an updated CCC contact list – completed
- CCC52 Item 7.2 – CCC members to meet APVMA web manager to review CCC content – completed
- CCC52 Item 7 – members to advise availability for proposed 2010 CCC meeting dates – completed

Item 1.4 CCC correspondence register

1. CCC NOTED the correspondence register.
2. The CCC Chair advised new members of the process of information dissemination within the CCC. All members need to forward any important correspondence, including emails, to the CCC Secretariat for distribution in a combined information email to members each fortnight, or as required for urgent matters.
3. CCC acknowledged the receipt of an email from Beate Mies in relation to a meeting with the APVMA in September discussing the APVMA position statement addressing the updated AVA policy on dog and cat vaccinations:
 - a. APVMA advised comments have been received from Ms Mies and Mrs Hart and are currently being considered in relation to the draft position statement from APVMA to address the over vaccination issue

and in the context of the new AVA policy on vaccination of dogs and cats

Item 1.5 Declaration of financial interest

1. CCC NOTED standing disclosures of relevant direct or indirect financial interests declarations returned by all current members of the CCC.
2. APVMA advised members are required to submit a standing declaration for the duration of their term. An additional notice is required when there is any particular matter under consideration that gives rise to an actual conflict of interest.

2. MEMBERS REPORTS

Item 2.1 Members Reports

David Lawson

1. David advised members that at the completion of the last meeting he and Neville spent 90 minutes reviewing the new APVMA website offering a few suggestions and David advised he is more than happy to offer that assistance again.
2. David encourages all members to take the time to review the new APVMA website stating it is a very user-friendly and a well-designed system.

Peter Cone

1. Peter discussed the statement on the CropLife website: *Follow the Label! Pesticide users should follow the instructions on the product label for several important reasons.*
2. CCC members suggested that the APVMA may look at providing a statement on the APVMA website advising where AgVet chemicals fit within the broader process of label instructions in relation to the current Safework Australia Draft National Code of Practice for the Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals. The farming community may not always look for warnings in pictogram form, as they are accustomed to warnings in fine print or boxes in the body of label. In addition there is a risk that some farmers may not be clear on what some pictogram warnings mean. Members feel the APVMA could point this out within their position statement.
3. Peter also raised the issue of spray drift and acknowledged the amount of work that has been progressed with drift reduction awareness campaigns and safety requirements, although a lot of problems still exist. Communities in WA have performed a collation of all the ground rig equipment, rated the proficiency of each piece of equipment and is looking at where problems regarding drift and spray equipment can be reduced. This is an ongoing process.

John Temperley

1. John advised members Farmsafe Australia is participating in:
 - a. Safe Work Australia's program examining labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals

- b. PSIC development of a proposal for a single, national framework to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemicals
- c. ACAHS research, *Effectiveness of risk control measures to reduce occupational exposure to pesticides* – the findings of this research project were presented at a Forum in February 2009, with the following recommendations explored:
 - i. the APVMA should review the findings of these three studies in association with the ASCC and, taking a farmer/user perspective, implement measures to improve health and safety information on labels. These findings provide strong support for consideration of adoption of some elements of the labelling system recommended by the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (United Nations, 2007). This system recommends use of phrases that better describe the nature of the poisons risk, and internationally recognised pictograms indicating the risk as well as relevant personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - ii. the ASCC should reconsider the value of MSDSs relating to registered pesticides used on Australian agricultural workplaces, in association with the APVMA
 - iii. governments and regulators should examine ways to standardise Micromatic fittings for transfer of pesticides
 - iv. governments and regulators should examine ways to either:
 - 1. standardise 20 litre drum outlets to allow for use of transferrable pourers
 - 2. set standards for 20 litre drums that ensure pouring is free from ‘glugging’ and splashing
 - v. the APVMA should review the range of PPE items instructed for use as part of label safety directions, in association with manufacturers and suppliers of PPE for contemporary advice
 - vi. suppliers of respiratory protection, with governments should examine ways of making selection of masks, filters and respirators more straightforward
 - vii. risk assessments undertaken as part of the APVMA registration process for determining conditions for use of specific pesticides should encourage generating data and testing for exposure using a waterproof apron as an option without the requirement of overalls
 - viii. guidance as to PPE requirements where closed transfer systems are in place should also be considered by the APVMA in the development of label safety directions, as there is currently no such guidance available on either label or MSDS

- 2. Members noted the report tabled and the implications to the APVMA and look forward to receiving an update on how APVMA have considered these recommendations at the next CCC meeting in February.

ACTION	APVMA acknowledged the tabled report; <i>Effectiveness of risk control measures to reduce occupational exposure to pesticides</i> , and will provide an update on how they have moved forward with the recommendations outlined at CCC54.
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Joe Elbustani

1. Joe continued to express his concern with issues in relation to training and education for farmers from non-English speaking backgrounds. Language barriers and literacy levels of farmers make it difficult to be able to meet the requirements imposed upon them from the APVMA, Work Safe and state departments training programs.
2. This raises the issue with chemical training for farmers and Joe suggested the possibility of SMARTtrain courses being specifically designed for market gardeners, to be delivered with different language providers.
3. The CCC Chair acknowledged the importance of this issue and will raise it with the Department of Primary Industries at a meeting next week.

ACTION	CCC Chair to raise the issue of training and education for farmers from non-English speaking backgrounds with the Department of Primary Industries at a meeting on 7 th December.
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Anthony Amis

1. Anthony advised members he has been working on a project mapping the land use in water supplies that supply three rural towns in Victoria.
2. Anthony has also been in discussions with people suffering from spray drift from use by strawberry growers located near the township of Woori Yallock.

Neville Prowse-Brown

1. No report at this meeting.

John Mills

1. John Mills advised members that on 12th November 2009 thirty-five TAFE NSW teachers participated in a videoconference professional development workshop, indicating:
 - a. all participants were supplied with copies of presentations for the workshop and workshop activity materials
 - b. teachers were located all over NSW from Wollongbar on the North Coast to Deniliquin in the Riverina and from Moree in the North West to Sydney on the East Coast
 - c. in excess of fifty teachers received the resources packages
2. APVMA sent two staff, who travelled to Orange, to participate in the delivery of an update on the APVMA and the Adverse Experience Reporting Program (AERP).
3. Staff from NSW Department of Industry and Investment (formerly NSW Department of Agriculture) also participated in the workshop.
4. John advised members that he would like to run this as a regular activity up to four times a year to provide information on the APVMA and AERP as professional development for trainers, and feedback he received was very positive.

5. The next step in the process would also be to run the workshop for Department of Primary Industries trainers throughout Australia.
6. John also attended a stakeholder meeting with PIMC, reporting on the COAG review of agricultural and veterinary chemicals regulation, on 1 December 2009 and will provide members with a copy of the slides provided at the meeting.

ACTION	John Mills to provide members with a copy of the slides provided at the PIMC meeting on 1 December 2009.
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Heather Yeatman

1. Heather advised members of her invitation onto the committee for the National Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy which is looking at consumer requirements on the food label including looking at trade practices and food regulation that are impacted on by the label and how consumers understand the label. A topic of interest already raised is the area of MRLs (Maximum Residue Levels), which is a joint arrangement between APVMA and FSANZ.
2. This review has a tight time frame. Announced at the end of October, the review has been initiated by COAG and actioned through the Food Regulation Ministerial Council. The first round of consultation finished on 20 November 2009 which received 5500 submissions indicating the high interest in this area. There will be more rounds of consultation throughout the year and the review committee need to report back to the Food Regulation Ministerial Council on 3 December 2010.

Heather Wieland

1. Heather advised the issues coming through the CWAA's various state branches include requests for:
 - a. multiple languages on information tags, or at least something stating where to refer to for information, for members of the community who are not able to read the labels in English
 - b. more information of the chemical dangers and toxicity on transport vehicles – trucks and trains – carrying chemicals. A phone number of where and who to contact in case of an emergency would be useful. APVMA and members stated this is a Safe Work Australia issue and John Temperley advised he will forward this information through Farm Safe Australia to find who is responsible and will note this via e-CCChatter

ACTION	John Temperley to advise contacts within Safe Work Australia in relation to the information displayed on trucks and trains transporting chemicals outlining the chemical dangers and toxicity of chemicals.
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Item 2.2 How to proceed to achieve improved container design and pesticide transfer systems that reduce exposure to users

1. John Temperley asked APVMA about how to proceed to achieve improved container design and pesticide transfer systems that can reduce exposure to users. This has been on the CropLife agenda for a number of years and some companies have improved the design, although there still needs to be more improvement over a range of companies supplying products in Australia.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Item 3.1 Database/information linkage

1. Anthony updated members on his work on the database/information linkage over the last three months. Anthony stated at the previous meeting, since February, he had sourced 170 relevant articles and publications published throughout the year. Anthony stated in the last three months the total number of publications has increased to 220. The number one concern in these publications is health issues, with approximately 50 percent of publications directly relating to health and pesticides or chemicals. The three most frequent concerns are the impact on children, endocrine disruption and Parkinson disease.
2. The American Medical Association called for a resolution for new assessment policies to decrease public exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals on 11 October 2009.
3. On 29 October, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in the United States ordered chemical testing for hormone effects.
4. In April 2009, EPA in United States published a list of 67 pesticides, which will go through tier 1 screening for potential impacts with regard to endocrine disruption.
5. Members discussed the way forward with this information, advising:
 - a. APVMA may possibly look at placing on their website information concerning endocrine disruption and other relevant emerging issues. As a proactive approach the APVMA could publicly release statements on emerging issues and provide links to information from the regulators in the United Kingdom, United States and Australian websites, providing a balance of issues taking all views into consideration.

ACTION	APVMA to report back at CCC54 with their views on placing an emerging issues link on the APVMA website.
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- b. CCC Chair to write to the Australian Medical Association asking their position regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals

ACTION	CCC Chair to write to Australian Medical Association seeking their position regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals.
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6. CCC thanked Anthony for his work towards this project and will place the project on hold pending the outcome of APVMA discussions on placing some information on the APVMA website.

Item 3.2 Draft framework for education

1. David provided members with a copy of the education matrix, which was updated out of session from the last meeting.
2. CCC is keen to support an education role for the APVMA around AgVet chemicals and the matrix is a first attempt at gathering information. Initially the education matrix was developed around the AERP program and is now developing around education and provision of information for products used in domestic situations and general public use.
3. The main areas to be focused on to increase awareness and education levels are:
 - a. AERP
 - b. use of label (domestic products)
 - c. at risk (commercial users and OH&S issues)
 - d. English as a second language
 - e. literacy and numeracy levels in relation to being able to effectively use the information on a label
 - f. informing the public on the evaluation process of AgVet chemicals – ongoing process
 - g. information to provide a balance in relation to AgVet chemicals and their use, in particular the following areas:
 - i. school education
 - ii. veterinary sector
 - iii. higher education
 - iv. future farmers program
4. Simon Cubit provided members with an update on the educational role and considerations within the APVMA advising:
 - a. there have been internal discussions about the education role and on what needs to be undertaken, although at this stage there is no clear directive on the education role within APVMA
5. Simon presented members with a copy of the US Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration strategic plan for risk communication which talks about what needs to be undertaken by way of communication by providing information for stakeholders to be able to participate effectively in the regulatory scheme of the FDA. He indicated the APVMA could provide this type of information to stakeholders.

ACTION	APVMA to provide members with a copy of the FDA risk communication document.
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6. Simon also discussed education issues in the context of the current regulatory review. A strategic plan for risk communication could be recommended, as it would be well received by stakeholders and it was an ideal time to take a fresh look at what the regulatory system can provide to the Australian community.

7. Members agreed that the CCC Chair would provide a response to PSIC, in relation to the review of a single national framework and the education and information provision role of APVMA. Members need to send ideas through to the CCC Chair to include in the response.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC Chair to provide a response to PSIC to raise the education and information provision role in relation to the review of a single national framework. Draft to be circulated to members late January 2010. 2. Members to provide ideas and comments and send through to the CCC Chair to include in the response by mid January 2010.
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8. Members agreed that prior to taking the education matrix any further, the broader educational activities currently performed by the APVMA need to be clarified and documented.
9. Members also agreed they would like a standing item on the CCC agenda for the APVMA to provide an update on the educational activities undertaken by the APVMA in the preceding three months.

ACTION	Add education activities of the APVMA as a standing item on the CCC agenda.
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4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 4.1 CCC Recruitment Update

1. CCC members NOTED the update on CCC recruitment.

5. APVMA REPORTS

Item 5.1 Pesticides Program

1. Members NOTED the Pesticides program report and thanked Elvira for the AERP update on APVMA and AERP at the following events within Australia:
 - a. Henty field day
 - b. Orange field day
 - c. SMARTtrain videoconference in Orange as outlined in John Mills members report:

APVMA staff arranged a public display and information stall at both field days. There were many visitors, which provided an opportunity to introduce the functions and importance of the program as well as responding to general questions.

2. Heather Wieland requested an AERP information package from APVMA to provide to 40,000 CWAA members advising this will be a valuable way to distribute the information to a diverse range of people.

ACTION	APVMA to provide AERP information to Heather Wieland for distribution to CWAA members.
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3. Anthony requested an update on progress of the following:
 - a. Simazine review; and

- b. Atrazine label changes

ACTION	APVMA to provide an update on the simazine review and atrazine label changes to CCC members out of session.
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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.

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 RLC36 [March 2009], teleconference 24 June 2009 and spray drift label restraint statements 26 June 2009
 - b. the approved minutes of ITC28 [June 2009] and actions from ITC29 [September 2009]
 - c. the approved minutes of ILC42 [August 2009] and actions from ILC42 [August 2009]

7. OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING

Item 7.1 APVMA CEO overseas meeting update

1. The APVMA CEO provided a presentation on the APVMA's involvement in international meetings through June/July 2009 specifically:
- a. OECD working Group on Pesticides
 - i. hazard/risk assessment and test guidelines
 - ii. minor use expert group
 - iii. biocides taskforce
 - iv. registration steering group
 - v. risk reduction steering group
 - vi. EU strategic approach to pesticide management
 - vii. prevention, detection and control of illegal trade of pesticides
 - b. Work share and joint reviews
 - i. joint review meeting – governments only
 - ii. joint review governments/industry meetings
 - c. CEO overseas meetings EC agencies and UK regulators
 - i. UK Chemicals Regulatory Directorate
 - ii. UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate
 - iii. European Medicines Agency
 - iv. European Commission Environment Directorate
 - v. European Commission Health & Consumers Directorate
2. CCC members discussed the following topics with the APVMA CEO:

- a. APVMA to look at placing information on their website concerning endocrine disruption and other relevant emerging issues as discussed in agenda item 3.1. The APVMA CEO advised this would be a valuable idea to provide a balance of information available to the public
- 3. Members also raised the role of education for the APVMA. The APVMA CEO advised:
 - a. the APVMA is tasked with providing information and also tasked to work with the states and territories in terms of providing types of educational materials
 - b. the question of education is of interest across all APVMA committees and with the current PIMC review this is currently a good opportunity to raise the issue of who is responsible for the educational role and who will fund the function
- 4. CCC members also discussed the following options with the APVMA CEO:
 - a. a CCC representative to attend ILC meetings to provide exposure of the CCC; and
 - b. the Advisory Board Chair to attend one CCC meeting each year as a way to further develop the information flow between the committee and the APVMA

The APVMA CEO responded stating:

- c. as ILC Chair, the APVMA CEO believes it would be very beneficial for a representative from the CCC to attend the April ILC meeting, as that particular meeting concentrates on the APVMA work plan for the forthcoming year, and it would be an opportune time for the CCC to also present their work plan for the year, discussing any common ground with an opportunity for information exchange and input and shared work.
- d. currently the Advisory Board receives copies of the CCC minutes and actions to follow their progress, although it might be valuable for the Advisory Board Chair to attend the CCC in December each year
- e. add to the CCC agenda as a standing item for a CEO report to be provided advising members of the broader activities of the APVMA

ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC Chair to attend ILC44 – 7 April 2010. 2. APVMA CEO to discuss option of Advisory Board Chair attending CCC December meeting each year. 3. CEO report to be included as a standing item on CCC Agenda.
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Other business/date for next meeting

- 1. The APVMA Web Manager provided members with an overview of the new website advising members to provide all feedback to the Web Manager at webmaster@apvma.gov.au
- 2. CCC meeting dates for 2010 are:
 - a. CCC54 – 17 March 2010
 - b. CCC55 – 3 June 2010
 - c. CCC56 – 2 September 2010
 - d. CCC57 – 2 December 2010

3. It was suggested that one of the meetings in 2010 be held outside of Canberra.
4. Neville congratulated the APVMA AERP staff on a wonderful job on promoting the APVMA and AERP, from the first trial at Bairnsdale they have continued to do some great work.
5. On behalf of the CCC, Neville would also like to thank the CCC secretariat for assistance and support throughout the year.
6. Members would also like to congratulate staff involved in the work on the new APVMA website.

The APVMA CEO thanked the CCC Chair and all members for their work on the CCC throughout the year.

The chair thanked members for their attendance and input and closed CCC53 at 3.30pm.