



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
54th MEETING – 17 March 2010
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 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
Mr Alex Moore (part)	Web Manager
Mr Rod Edmundson	Senior Reviewer AERP
Dr Eva Bennet-Jenkins	CEO

APOLOGIES

Mr Joe Elbustani	Greenhouse Vegetables Association, NSW Farmers Association
Ms Felicity McDonald	Stakeholder Engagement Manager

1. INTRODUCTION

Item 1.1 Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

1. The Chair opened CCC54 at 9.05am and welcomed CCC members and APVMA staff.
2. CCC ADOPTED the agenda as tabled.

Item 1.2 Minutes & resolutions of CCC52

1. CCC ACCEPTED the report of CCC53 as tabled.
2. APVMA advised when future CCC minutes are distributed after each meeting members will be given a period of two weeks to comment on the minutes which will then be circulated to other committees out of session.

Item 1.3 Actions from previous meetings

1. CCC NOTED the status of actions as follows:
 - 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 –
 - (2) APVMA Principal Scientist to look at RSPCA model and discuss the perceived usefulness with members at CCC53 – discussed under Agenda Item 5.1, remove from action list
 - CCC52 Item 2.1 – Eucmix GR – can it be applied within 10m of snig tracks – completed, remove from action list
 - CCC53 Item 2.1- Effectiveness of risk control measures to reduce occupational exposure to pesticides report – update at Agenda Item 3.2, leave on action list
 - CCC53 Item 2.1 – 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 7/12/09 – completed, remove from action list
 - CCC53 Item 2.1 – John Mills to provide members with a copy of the slides provided at the PIMC meeting 1/12/09 – completed, remove from action list
 - CCC53 Item 2.1 – John Temperley to advise contacts within Safe Work Australia in relation to the information displayed on trucks and trains transporting chemicals outline the chemical dangers toxicity of chemicals – completed, remove from action list
 - CCC53 Item 3.1/1 – APVMA to report back at CCC54 with their views on placing an emerging issues link on the APVMA website – discussed at Agenda Item 3.1, remove from action list
 - CCC53 Item 3.1/2 – CCC Chair to write to Australian Medical Association seeking their position regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals – completed, remove from action list
 - CCC53 Item 3.2/1 – APVMA to provide members with a copy of the FDA risk communication document – completed, remove from action list

- CCC53 Item 3.2/2 – CCC to provide a response to PSIC to raise the education and information provision role in relation to the review of a single national framework – completed, remove from action list
- CCC53 Item 3.2/3 – Add education activities of the APVMA as a standing item on CCC agenda – completed, remove from action list
- CCC53 Item 5.1/1 – APVMA to provide AERP information to Heather Wieland for distribution to CWAA members – completed, remove from action list
- CCC53 Item 5.1/2 – APVMA to provide an update on the simazine review and atrazine label changes to CCC members out-of-session – completed, remove from action list
- CCC53 Item 7.1/1/1 – CCC Chair to attend ILC44 – 7 April 2010 – completed, remove from action list
- CCC53 Item 7.1/1/2 – APVMA CEO to discuss option of Advisory Board Chair attending CCC December meeting each year – completed, remove from action list
- CCC53 Item 7.1/1/3 – APVMA CEO report to be included as a standing item on CCC Agenda – completed, remove from action list

Item 1.4 CCC correspondence register

1. CCC NOTED the correspondence register.
2. The CCC Chair reminded members to forward any correspondence they would like distributed to the CCC secretariat for distribution.

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. CCC NOTED the report from David advising:
 - a. peak bodies have received money from the State Government to help train/educate their members about implications of the Great Barrier Reef Protection Bill.
 - b. Federal Minister Tony Burke has visited a number of properties around Queensland in the last few months to view farming practices and grower efforts to implement risk management plans (RMPs) to protect the reef.

Peter Cone

1. CCC NOTED the following comments from Peter in relation to farmer training:
 - a. farmer level training seems to have lost its momentum as reaccreditation is seen as a waste of time and/or money
 - b. regulatory agencies need to keep reinforcing the push for training as adding to the knowledge, skills base and relevance for updated competencies
 - c. acknowledging there is also a lack of compliance activity in the area of chemical use without accreditation, as the fines for not being compliant and remaining accredited is not much more than the cost of the training itself, so it is not unusual for farmers to take the risk of a fine for being non compliant rather than taking the time and making the effort for being accredited. Good training packages are being let down at the farmer/user end.

John Temperley

1. No report at this meeting.

Joe Elbustani

1. Apologies. No report at this meeting.

Anthony Amis

1. Anthony advised members that over the past few months he has been looking at pesticides used by local government in urban environments. Of most concern is the use of a range of insecticides/herbicides in local parks, sportsgrounds and reserves that can be applied by boom sprays, which raise the following questions:
 - a. are local residents informed prior to spraying and are they being exposed to spray drift?
 - b. are houses/residents in close proximity to parks, reserves and golf courses at risk?
2. Anthony also raised the issue of simazine being used by local governments in swimming pools during winter months to kill algae when the pool remains open to swimmers during these winter months. Anthony suggested that his information conflicts with the advice from the pool and spa industry suggesting simazine products are 'typically used to treat pools over winter months when they are not being used'.
3. Anthony provided APVMA with the following questions in relation to simazine:
 - a. when will the simazine review formally begin? What is the delay, as the APVMA website states it will commence within the next six months from June 2009? Perhaps the website information could be updated to indicate when the review might start?
 - b. is the APVMA aware that local councils use simazine to treat pools in winter when the pools are still used by the public?

- c. when advice was sought by APVMA from the pool and spa industry regarding the use of simazine products in swimming pools, who was consulted by the APVMA to provide the answers that are placed on the APVMA website?
 - d. how much time and research went into preparing the APVMA web statement on simazine in swimming pools? Where was the advice sought from?
4. Also raised in Anthony's report were questions relating to the revised draft Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, stating;
- a. the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHRMC) recently asked for public submissions into the revised Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
 - b. 58 pesticides are proposed to have had their Health Guideline increased, 25 decreased and 37 are new under the Draft Guidelines
5. The following questions were raised by Anthony for the APVMA concerning this process;
- a. what role has the APVMA had in relation to the revised NHMRC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines? Did APVMA put in a submission or provide comments on any of the chemicals?
 - b. were the proposed changes to the Pesticide Health Limits based on recommendations made by the APVMA to the NHRMC (or committees of the NHMRC)?
 - c. does the APVMA have a position statement on the ADWG Draft Health Guidelines
 - d. does the APVMA support the new draft guidelines for pesticides that are currently being revised by the NHMRC?
6. APVMA advised CCC they would take the questions provided above on notice and respond to members out of session.

ACTION	APVMA to respond out of session to questions raised by Anthony Amis on Simazine and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
---------------	---

Neville Prowse-Brown

- 1. CCC NOTED Neville's report outlining a proposal for the CCC June meeting. This will be covered under Agenda Item 2.2.

John Mills

- 1. CCC NOTED John's report outlining:
 - a. continuing work on providing feedback to AgriFood Skills Australia on the draft Agriculture Horticulture and Conservation Training Package AHC10 <http://www.agrifoodskills.net.au/training-packages/merged-package-page/>
 - b. working closely with NSW Department of Industry and Investment in providing feedback to AgriFood Skills Australia on the new and revised chemical units in the AHC10 Training Package. These included new fumigation training units for conducting fumigations in enclosed spaces and soil fumigations.

- c. progress on the development of a SMARTtrain DVD learning and assessment resource to support delivery and assessment of the Level 3 Chemical competencies
 - d. the first TAFE NSW Chemical Teachers Network Professional Development Activity for 2010 will be held on Friday 19th March, with RTO's from other states dialing into the video conference. The one hour video conference will focus on reviewing the draft DVD learning and assessment resource
2. John advised members that he submitted a response to Question 22 of the discussion paper "A National Scheme for Assessment, Registration and Control of Use of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals" and requested it be distributed to all CCC members.

ACTION	CCC Secretariat to distribute a copy of John Mill's submission to all CCC Members.
---------------	--

Heather Yeatman

- 1. CCC NOTED Heather's report advising:
 - a. met with NSW Department Industry and Investment Research staff on 7 December 2009 to discuss a range of educational needs of NESB farmers in the Sydney area. A follow up meeting will be held on 22 March 2010 at the University of Wollongong
- 2. On behalf of CCC, the Chair wrote to:
 - a. AMA regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals. There has been no response to date
 - b. PSIC regarding the national regulatory framework submission based on drafts from CCC members

ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC Secretariat to arrange for the CCC submission to be located on the CCC page on the APVMA website. 2. CCC Secretariat to draft a letter to AMA for CCC Chair as a follow up to the letter written to AMA in December 2009 regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals.
---------------	--

- 3. A meeting was held with the APVMA CEO in February to discuss the following CCC and APVMA matters:
 - a. agree that the CCC chair would attend April ILC meeting and December Advisory Board meeting
 - b. identified preliminary work undertaken by CCC members to organise the June meeting in Victoria
 - c. raised information and education roles of APVMA and work to date of CCC
 - d. raised discussions of CCC role/s within APVMA and how to progress
- 4. CCC chair was included in all communication with B Mies regarding companion animal vaccination policies and practices.
- 5. The Food Labelling Review consultation paper was released and currently open for public meetings and comment, closing on 14 May 2010
www.foodlabellingreview.gov.au

Heather Wieland

1. Heather advised members that the AERP information APVMA provided out of session has been forwarded to CWA groups in all the states for forwarding and distribution to members.
2. Through travelling around different states in the last three months Heather advised CCC members she has provided an overview of APVMA as well as reporting in various journals and newsletters of each State, requesting members to send Heather any concerns or forward them directly to APVMA.
3. Heather advised CCC members she was surprised that many of the grass root members did not know about the Community Consultative Committee in the APVMA although they were happy to learn that they had an avenue by which to raise their concerns.
4. Heather advised that she is interested in an issue in Gladstone recently with the loss of three perinatal babies due to toxic shock syndrome and will keep members informed of the outcomes.

Item 2.2 Proposal for June meeting

1. CCC members prepared a proposal to APVMA for their June meeting to be held in Melbourne with the following itinerary:
 - a. Tuesday 1 June 2010 - invite guest from Chemiclear for dinner
 - b. Wednesday 2 June 2010 - travel to DPI Attwood Research Station to meet Senior Chemical Standards Officers
 - c. Wednesday 2 June 2010 - travel to Sylvan reservoir for inspection and explanations on the problems at Sylvan
 - d. Wednesday 2 June 2010 - travel back to hotel to hold the CCC meeting, inviting Chemical Standards Officers to join the meeting to familiarise them with the work of the CCC
 - e. Thursday 3 June 2010 - Visit Nufarm prior to returning to Melbourne Airport
2. APVMA advised members due to financial constraints at this stage the trip for their June meeting will not be approved for this financial year.
3. APVMA also advised CCC members need to plan 12 months ahead for any field trip activity due to the extra funding required to hold a meeting off site as any off site activity needs to have the budget approved and the activity should be linked to the APVMA operational and corporate plans.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Item 3.1 Update on Emerging issues on APVMA website

1. APVMA advised CCC members of upcoming changes on the APVMA website. These will include:
 - a. 'Chemicals in the News' which seeks to provide an easy to understand summary on chemicals that are discussed in the media. Content will be periodically updated in response to regulatory activities. This feature is located in the right hand panel on the front page of the website.

- b. 'Community Questions' that will provide the APVMA with an opportunity to respond to questions commonly asked by the community. The focus of this feature will be to structure answers to explain the regulatory process in simple everyday language. Questions and answers will roll through the site and be archived providing a ready reference for the future. This feature will be located under "Our View" on the front page of the APVMA website
2. APVMA also advised they are currently working on another page on the website outlining the National Registration Scheme and regulatory system and where the APVMA fits into that system. There will be a brief introduction on the NRS followed by an image indicating all the agencies involved with a brief outline on each agency's responsibility. APVMA will advise members when it will become available.
 3. CCC members discussed the new 'community questions' addition to the website indicating;
 - a. members will submit a few questions each with their members report prior to each CCC meeting
 - b. the CCC secretariat will summarise these questions for the meeting where members will spend a short time prioritising the questions and provide the priorities to the APVMA to consider for the website
 4. CCC members provided the following issues as a priority from CCC54 for community questions:
 - a. what is national harmonisation and what does it mean to the community?
 - b. what is endocrine disruption?
 - c. is pesticide use linked to Parkinson's Disease?
 - d. how do we find out how agvet chemical exposure affects children's health and behaviour?
 5. CCC members congratulated APVMA on moving forward with these new initiatives.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC members to provide in their members report, a range of community questions for consideration at each meeting. 2. CCC Secretariat to summarise all questions and provide at each meeting for prioritisation and to submit to the APVMA for consideration for the community questions section on the APVMA website.
--------	---

Item 3.2 Update on APVMA outcomes of Effectiveness of risk control measures recommendations

1. APVMA advised there is no available update on how APVMA has moved forward with the recommendations of the Effectiveness risk control measures to reduce occupational exposure to pesticides.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. CCC members requested an update at the next CCC meeting on nanotechnology and the specific implications in relation to agvet chemicals.

ACTION	APVMA to provide a presentation to CCC members at CCC55 on nanotechnology and the specific implications in relation to agvet chemicals.
---------------	---

2. John Temperley asked APVMA if there are any data available on the quantities of agvet products sold in Australia with a view to relate it to use and exposure of chemicals in Australia. The CCC was advised that the APVMA governing board had discussed this issue and a number of recommendations were proposed.
3. The CCC Chair requested a one page discussion paper to be prepared by John, with input from all members, for discussion at CCC55 in June outlining the scope for:
 - a. data reporting on chemicals usage
 - b. implications of climate change in relation to chemical use; and
 - c. how usage of chemicals is measured and how does chemical usage relate to volume usage
4. APVMA will provide John with governing board notes on independent chemical collection to assist with the preparation of the paper for CCC55.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APVMA to provide John Temperley with governing board notes on independent chemical collection. 2. John Temperley to prepare a discussion paper for CCC55, with input from CCC members on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. reporting on chemical usage b. implications of climate change in relation to chemical use; and c. how is usage of chemicals measured and how does chemical usage relate to volume usage.
---------------	--

5. APVMA REPORTS

Item 5.1 Pesticides Program

1. Members NOTED the Pesticides program report, in particular:
 - a. AERP update advising on Advisory Board recommendations for the program:
 - i. the Ag component of the AERP to continue and improve in a number of ways to provide greater awareness and coverage to the community and registrants
 - ii. advising that the Vet AERP is working well, with a lower number of incident reporting rates occurring, and educating veterinarians and other professionals of the importance of reporting adverse experiences
 - iii. for APVMA to consider, with the label reform projects, to have a logo or a contact/web address for the adverse experience reporting on the product label, which is a large task and needs to be determined as part of the labelling project
 - b. an AERP staff member recently attended a residential program in Victoria run by the Deakin Medical School involving health workers, veterinarians and doctors. It was a valuable program, providing

interaction with rural health and veterinary health workers, and also an opportunity to provide an APVMA presentation, which specifically outlined the adverse experience reporting program. The presentation was extremely well received and welcomed by the attendees and the course director will now incorporate the presentation as a standard feature for all similar future courses.

- c. atrazine update outlining:
 - i. APVMA received a report on the mode of action from the Office of Chemical Safety and Environmental Health (OCSEH) and as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) EPA opened their own review, it offered to do a peer review of the OCS report, which has been sent to the EPA. APVMA is currently waiting for a response back from the EPA.
- d. RSPCA humaneness report advising:
 - i. APVMA was asked by PSIC to look at the report to see how they could apply any of the recommendations in relation to animal welfare and humaneness when looking at the registration of certain types of products
 - ii. APVMA need to respond to PSIC with a proposal on how we might consider capturing animal humaneness as part of a product registration or review
 - iii. APVMA wrote a letter back to the RSPCA thanking them for the report and need to write back to RSPCA advising them of the policy direction from PSIC.
2. John Temperley advised members of the new National Centre for Farmer Health in Victoria headed by Sue Brumby, which is a joint partnership between the Western District Health Service and Deakin University and will be funded by a \$1 million donation from the Handbury Trust and a \$2.4 million State Government grant running over four years. The centre is dedicated to improving and supporting the health and well-being of farmers, their employees and farm communities across Australia. APVMA advised they would establish initial contact to see if they are aware of the APVMA AER program.
3. CCC members enquired if APVMA have considered providing AER education to pharmacists, who are often the first point of call in rural areas prior to visiting doctors. APVMA advised they would take this suggestion on board and consider it further.
4. APVMA also advised of their involvement in the permethrin labelling research project where the APVMA, in conjunction with the AVA, held a meeting with registrants and distributors. As a result a steering group was formed to develop a guideline to introduce new labelling requirements for the permethrin spot on for dogs products. These new labelling requirements will show pictograms indicating it is not safe to be used on cats.

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.

Item 5.4 CEO Report

- 1. Members NOTED the CEO report on activities advising:
 - a. the Better Regulation Partnership review of the APVMA to identify specific reform opportunities to improve APVMA’s overall effectiveness and efficiency to reduce business costs associated with agvet chemicals regulation was recently completed. The outcomes of the review will inform the PIMC review of the framework.
 - b. a number of submissions were provided to PSIC in the preparation of the paper for a single, national framework for agricultural and veterinary chemicals regulation
 - c. the cost recovery review is still with the Minister

Item 5.5 APVMA Education Activities

- 1. APVMA advised CCC there has been little activity on education due to resource and funding restrictions and awaiting the completion of the review of a single national framework.
- 2. APVMA did however, provide CCC members with information from a paper provided to RLC38 on 10-11 March outlining questions to State partners regarding:
 - a. provision of information and education about:
 - i. agricultural chemicals generally
 - ii. the regulatory system for agricultural and veterinary chemicals
 - iii. APVMA label statements and instructions
 - b. what sectors are regarded as appropriate for the APVMA to consider for provision of information and education:
 - i. agricultural sector
 - ii. chemical industry
 - iii. community sector
 - iv. particular occupational groups

ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. CCC secretariat to forward the questions outlined in the APVMA education paper provided to RLC to CCC members out of session2. CCC members to respond to the questions outlined in the paper and forward to CCC secretariat by COB 30 April 2010
--------	--

Item 5.6 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Update

1. CCC NOTED the stakeholder engagement strategy update provided, in particular:
 - a. the APVMA will consider the effectiveness of its formal consultative committees with a view to developing a meaningful dialogue that is beneficial for the APVMA and its key stakeholders
 - b. the Stakeholder Engagement Manager proposes to liaise and consult with the CCC out of session where required, due to the meeting schedule. This may include a request to participate in an electronic survey
 - c. the Stakeholder Engagement Manager also proposes holding a teleconference in late April/May to explore options to strengthen engagement with members, with any refinements to the operation of CCC be presented for discussion and endorsement at the June 2010 meeting

6. APVMA COMMITTEE UPDATES

Item 6.1-6.3 ILC, ITC & RLC

1. CCC NOTED copies of the approved minutes from ITC29 [September 2009] and actions from ITC30 [February 2010].
2. Copies of papers from ILC and RLC were not provided at this meeting as the most recent meeting papers were presented to CCC in December 2009

7. OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING

Other business/date for next meeting

1. CCC discussed their representation at ILC44 and their presentation on the issue of the provision of education.
2. CCC NOTED the next CCC meeting will be held in Canberra on Thursday 3 June 2010.

The chair thanked members for their attendance and input and closed CCC54 at 2.50pm.