



**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**60th MEETING – 1 September 2011**  
**ATTENDANCE**

**MEMBERS**

Dr Heather Yeatman (Chair)	Public Health Association of Australia
Mr Neville Prowse-Brown	East Gippsland Landcare Network, Victorian Farmers Federation East Gippsland District Council, Monash School of Rural Health
Mr David Lawson	Australian Consumers Association
Mr Anthony Amis	Friends of the Earth
Mrs Heather Wieland	Country Women's Association of Australia
Mr John Mills	TAFE NSW
Mr John Temperley	Farmsafe Australia Inc

**APVMA**

Dr Les Davies	Principal Scientist, Pesticides
Dr Eva Bennet-Jenkins (part)	CEO

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Peter Cone	National Farmers Federation
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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

1. The Chair opened CCC60 and welcomed CCC members and APVMA staff.
2. CCC NOTED apologies from:
  - a. Peter Cone
3. CCC ADOPTED the agenda as tabled.

### **Item 1.2 Actions from previous meetings**

1. CCC NOTED the status of actions as follows:
  - CCC58 Item 2.1 - Yarra River study – paper provided by Anthony Amis, noting that further work needs to be completed. Anthony will re-issue the completed paper by 30 September 2011. Remove from action list
  - CCC59 Item 2.1/1 – CCC Chair to write to QLD DEEDI relating to floods – still outstanding
  - CCC59 Item 2.1/2 – CCC Chair to write to PIMC relating to floods – still outstanding
  - CCC59 Item 2.1 – Fluazifop-p-butyl – still outstanding
  - CCC59 Item 2.1 – CCA – still outstanding
  - CCC59 Item 2.1 – AERP follow up on AERs raised in Neville Prowse-Brown’s CCC59 report – still outstanding. Neville to provide contact details to APVMA on the AERs submitted
  - CCC59 Item 2.1 – members to consider questions raised relating to AERP and provide comments – discussed at agenda item 3.4. Remove from action list
  - CCC59 Item 2.1 – CCC members community links – discussed at agenda item 2.2. Remove from action list
  - CCC59 Item 3.1 – CCC KPIs – discussed at agenda item 3.1. Remove from action list
  - CCC59 Item 3.2 – APVMA decision tree workshop – discussed at agenda item 3.2. Remove from action list
  - CCC59 Item 4.3 – draft labelling standards and draft labelling guide – comments on the labelling standard have been sought. Comments on the draft labelling guide will be sought over the coming months. Leave on action list
  - CCC59 Item 4.4 – Nanotechnology symposium – update provided in RS& C program report – remove from action list
  - CCC59 Item 5.1 – CCC Model – discussed at agenda item 3.3. Remove from action list.

### **Item 1.3 CCC correspondence register**

1. CCC NOTED the correspondence register.

### **Item 1.4 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. CCC members received the revised August 2011 copy of the Guideline for APVMA Committees – Disclosure of Direct and Indirect Financial Interest, for their information.

## 2. MEMBERS REPORTS

### Item 2.1 Members Reports

#### David Lawson

1. CCC NOTED David’s report advising canegrowers are concerned with the review of diuron by the APVMA and hope this chemical will not be removed from the approved herbicide list for use in sugarcane.
2. David also advised he was pleased to see the APVMA speak out against claims made by the National Toxics Network and WWF regarding banned chemicals in Europe still being used in Australia, as some of the chemicals are being used in Europe under exemption provisions, while some others were withdrawn on commercial grounds.

#### Peter Cone

Apologies. No report at this meeting.

#### John Temperley

1. CCC NOTED John’s verbal report raising concern relating to the new harmonised work health and safety legislation that commenced in all states on 1 January 2011 and provided the following questions:
  - a. from the current pesticide label, how will farmers know they are dealing with a hazardous substance and comply with the WHS regulations?
  - b. the chemical regulations have been substantially revised/updated and are expected to come into effect on 1 January 2013. Will the APVMA review pesticide labels to ensure that the safety directions that appear on pesticide labels are consistent with the requirements and information that appears on Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), or with the requirements described in Schedule 9 or elsewhere that may create confusion?
  - c. how will the APVMA promote these changes to the farming community?
2. John advised members the report prepared by himself and Lyn Fragar on *The impact of biotechnology and other factors on health and safety in the Australian cotton industry* has been accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Safety and Health*. John will circulate this report to members out of session.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. APVMA will respond to John’s questions and advise members out of session.</li> <li>2. John to circulate the report on <i>The impact of biotechnology and other factors on health and safety in the Australian cotton industry</i> to members out of session.</li> </ol>
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#### Anthony Amis

CCC NOTED Anthony’s report advising Friends of the Earth have requested information regarding pesticide detections from water supply authorities in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, to gain knowledge on the pesticide pollution problem throughout water supplies in Australia and to determine if similar issues are arising as have occurred in Victoria over the past decade.

## **Neville Prowse-Brown**

CCC NOTED Neville is continuing his work with agvet chemical courses and promoting the APVMA adverse experience reporting program within his networks.

## **John Mills**

1. CCC NOTED John's report outlining the following:
  - a. the AHC10 Agriculture Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package is now available for delivery by Registered Training Organisations and can be viewed at <http://training.gov.au> by entering AHAC in the search menu for nationally recognised training
  - b. NSW TAFE is continuing with the development of an online learning resource for the delivery of the new chemical units of competency from the AHC10 Agriculture Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package
  - c. A number of TAFE NSW Institutes are now delivering training against the new chemical units of competency.
2. John also thanked Mr Neville Matthew, General Manager, Better Regulation Taskforce APVMA, for speaking at the National Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management National Provider Network Conference which was held in Albury Wodonga from 24-26 August 2011.

## **Heather Yeatman**

1. CCC NOTED the following update from Heather since CCC59 advising recent work relating to:
  - a. following up on the work associated with the CCC decision-tree action from CCC59
  - b. will be attending the National Food Futures Conference, run by The Public Health Association of Australia, in Tasmania on 22 & 23 November 2011
  - c. recently provided a submission on the issues paper to inform development of a national food plan.

## **Heather Wieland**

Since CCC59, Heather advised the committee she has been attending a number of meetings as National President of the County Women's Association of Australia. Most recently, Heather spoke at a private school in Gladstone explaining the role of the APVMA and the National Registration Scheme (NRS).

### **Item 2.2 CCC members community links for APVMA website**

1. CCC members have provided APVMA with a 150-200 word outline describing their backgrounds and networks for inclusion on the CCC page on the APVMA website.

<b>ACTION</b>	APVMA will work with their public affairs section to update the CCC page to include this information prior to CCC61.
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### 3. CONTRIBUTE TO APVMA PROCESSES

#### Item 3.1 CCC-KPIs

1. At CCC59 members discussed CCC key performance indicators (KPIs) and ways to contribute to the APVMA processes.
2. Following discussion at CCC59, members raised questions to consider identifying the gaps in communities' awareness of the NRS and where information can be provided in terms of taking further action.
3. In relation to KPIs against which the CCC is responsible, members identified the following;
  - a. accountability – keeping track of issues and responses
  - b. translate and analyse community issues
  - c. provide a two way conduit to the community and the APVMA, noting:
    - i. confidentiality of papers
    - ii. input into monthly/regular newsletter inserts in members network on raising the awareness of the APVMA
    - iii. up-to-date Power-Point presentations on the APVMA/AERP for members to present to their networks
  - d. involvement in projects and activities via links with other committees; and
  - e. CCC communication with other relevant community consultative groups.
4. Members discussed the abovementioned KPIs and identified measures for each KPI. These will form the final CCC KPIs which will be finalised, agreed to out of session and added to the CCC page on the APVMA website.
5. Members also discussed the option of adding to the CCC agenda as a standing item, monthly statistics on web traffic to the CCC webpage as an indication of community interest in the CCC.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. CCC secretariat to finalise KPI document and seek endorsement from CCC members out of session.</li><li>2. CCC secretariat to add CCC web page statistics to the CCC meeting agenda as a standing item.</li></ol>
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#### Item 3.2 APVMA 'decision tree' workshop

1. At CCC59, members suggested ways to present information to the community in the form of a 'decision tree' on the APVMA website under community questions. A considerable amount of work was undertaken out of session for this project.
2. Due to the significant amount of information required to cover all aspects of information relating to the National Regulation Scheme, members suggested other ways this information could be represented on the APVMA website. The following ideas were suggested by members:
  - a. the ability to enter a question in a 'ask a question' box to identify if the question has been raised previously, either via a community question or questions received via the [contact@apvma.gov.au](mailto:contact@apvma.gov.au) email address
  - b. as a response to the question raised, the APVMA website could provide a list of the top 10 questions relating to the topic in question; if the original question

has been answered via the top 10 questions, a 'yes' option could then finish the question trail. If the question has not been answered a 'no' option will feed the original question to the [contact@apvma.gov.au](mailto:contact@apvma.gov.au) email address for follow up by APVMA staff.

This system may ease the traffic flow into the [contact@apvma.gov.au](mailto:contact@apvma.gov.au) inbox, as questions may be answered via the 'ask a question' box on the APVMA website in the first instance. This may also provide the community with more insight into the APVMA and how the NRS works via members of the community becoming more familiar with the APVMA website and the types of questions being raised.

ACTION	1. CCC secretariat to discuss these options with the Public Affairs team out of session and advise members of possible options that could be pursued with the APVMA Web Manager.
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### **Item 3.3 CCC models**

1. Members were requested at CCC59 to provide APVMA with feedback and suggestions on different or improved models of the CCC for the future. The following suggestions regarding the chair position were proposed to the APVMA:
  - a. an independent CCC chair with a knowledge of the agricultural chemical industry who has the time to commit 100% to the CCC
  - b. CCC chair to receive dedicated APVMA secretariat support; and
  - c. an opportunity for the new chair to be able to attend at least one meeting, as an observer, prior to taking on the role of CCC chair.
2. APVMA advised they will take these comments on board and discuss with the APVMA CEO out of session.

### **Item 3.4 AERP members comments from CCC59 Questions**

1. CCC members advised there is insufficient knowledge of the APVMA adverse experience reporting program in the community.
2. APVMA advised members if there is an adverse experience report that is provided to APVMA, it will be discussed with the relevant jurisdiction for their investigation.
3. John Temperley suggested the easiest way to educate and promote AERP is through the chemical user training program, as every chemical user is required to hold a chemical user training certificate.
4. John Mills advised AERP resources are currently used in NSW, VIC, QLD and NT ChemCert and SMARTTrain training courses and suggested it is time again to reinforce with the chemical trainers the importance of the adverse experience reporting program.
5. The CCC Chair advised that she will draft an article for circulation to members for inclusion in their networks newsletters to raise the profile of the APVMA adverse experience reporting program.
6. Members also suggested APVMA create a media video clip for the APVMA website on the use of chemicals and the importance of the APVMA adverse experience reporting program.

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CCC Chair to draft an article out-of-session for members to place in their networks newsletters to raise the profile of the APVMA adverse experience reporting program.</li> <li>2. APVMA to research the option of a media video clip on the use of chemicals and the importance of the APVMA adverse experience reporting program and discuss at CCC61.</li> <li>3. CCC members to follow up with ChemCert and SMARTTrain if they are continuing to include information on the APVMA adverse experience reporting program in their training manuals and advise of the outcome in their members reports at CCC61.</li> </ol>
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### **Item 3.5 APVMA Operational Plan**

1. CCC members were provided with the APVMA Operational Plan 2011/12 outlining the activities and targets for the APVMA for 2011/12. The key priority for the APVMA during 2011/12 is to commence implementation of the Reform Agenda whilst maintaining core activities.
2. APVMA would like members to review the Operational Plan 2011/12 and identify areas of activity where the CCC would like to be involved.

ACTION	CCC members to identify to APVMA areas of activity within the Operational Plan 2011/12 where they can contribute individually or as a group. Members will provide this input to the CCC Chair by 30 September 2011 for collation and discussion with the APVMA CEO.
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### **Item 3.6 AERP on-line**

1. CCC members were provided with a paper from APVMA advising that it will soon begin upgrading its online adverse experience reporting (AERP) system, as part of APVMA's commitment to continuous improvement, with the aim to develop a system that is user friendly and contemporary.
2. APVMA requested CCC members to provide suggestions on matters the APVMA should take into account in developing a new online facility. Once developed, APVMA would like CCC members to also provide feedback on test versions of the new version.
3. The following CCC members advised they would like to contribute to the developing of the new AERP on-line facility and provide feedback on test versions of the new version:
  - a. Neville Prowse-Brown
  - b. Anthony Amis
  - c. Heather Wieland; and
  - d. John Mill (useability).

ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CCC members to provide suggestions on matters the APVMA should take into account in developing a new AERP on-line facility.</li> <li>2. CCC members to provide feedback on test versions of the new AERP on-line version.</li> </ol>
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### Item 3.7 Infopest and future databases

1. APVMA provided members with a paper advising CCC of changes to the Queensland agvet chemical database Infopest and consequently the APVMA public register (PubCRIS); advising:
  - a. the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) is closing its Infopest service. Infopest is a searchable database of information on registered and permitted agvet chemical products and was developed by DEEDI to maximise compliance with chemical usage legislation and to facilitate investigations and regulatory actions of possible non-compliance. Information includes labels, rates of application, withholding periods, material safety data sheets, maximum residue limit information, pest images and pack size availability
  - b. the APVMA has collaborated with DEEDI by making electronic copies of labels available once approved. In turn, access to product labels on the APVMA public register, PubCRIS links into Infopest.
2. From September 2011, copies of marketed product labels previously hosted by Infopest will be transferred to appear directly through PubCRIS.
3. In line with the new label approval process that took effect through legislative change in July 2010, marketed product labels approved under the new system will no longer be available through PUBCRIS. The majority of new labels are now plain text and contain only the essential elements of the label, known as the Relevant Label Particulars.
4. The APVMA is currently considering a range of new IT projects. One area of particular interest is PubCRIS and how our primary public agvet chemical database might be further improved. This might involve the provision of additional functionality, a new user interface and additional search criteria.
5. The APVMA would value input from the CCC on how the PubCRIS public database might be further improved. This could include suggestions on what information the general community would find useful.
6. APVMA also discussed with members the area of growing interest concerning the use of “apps” to deliver information to Apple iPads, iPhones, Android devices and other smart phones. An example to consider is where an APVMA “app” could be used to allow users of these smart devices to access relevant and timely information in new ways.
7. The APVMA would also value CCC input on the types of information the community might wish to access through these new technologies.
8. The following members advised they would like to provide input to APVMA:
  - a. Neville Prowse-Brown
  - b. Anthony Amis
  - c. John Temperley; and
  - d. John Mills.

ACTION	CCC members to provide recommendations for further enhancements to the PubCRIS database and what information might be provided to the community via an APVMA ‘app’ designed for smart phones and other smart devises.
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#### **4. APVMA REPORTS**

##### **Item 4.1 CEO Report**

1. Members NOTED the CEO report. The CEO also advised members in October 2011 the APVMA will start planning their 3 year corporate plan and will be inviting comment from the CCC at their December meeting.

##### **Item 4.2 Pesticides Program**

1. Members NOTED the Pesticides Program report.

##### **Item 4.3 Veterinary Medicines Program**

1. Members NOTED the Veterinary Medicines Program report.

##### **Item 4.4 Regulatory Strategy and Compliance Program**

1. Members NOTED the Regulatory Strategy and Compliance Program report; in particular:
  - a. a proposal for NETS funding to host an APVMA / NICNAS Nanoregulation Symposium has been submitted to DIISR for consideration. The outcome of the submission is not yet known. The proposal is for the symposium to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November with national and international speakers present.

##### **Item 4.5 Increased transparency and public access to committee meetings and outcomes**

1. APVMA provided CCC members with a paper to consider options for increased transparency and public access to CCC meetings and outcomes.
2. The following options for increasing the information published on the APVMA website in relation to the CCC role and meetings were considered:
  - a. publish agenda, meeting papers and minutes for each meeting;
  - b. publish the agenda and minutes
  - c. publish the minutes; or
  - d. retain the current process.
3. APVMA advised CCC members these options will be considered by all committees and the APVMA advisory board.
4. CCC members advised they support greater transparency of CCC meetings and consider option (a) is suitable for CCC meetings.
5. APVMA advised once all committees and the advisory board have considered these options, APVMA will provide feedback to CCC members suggesting a framework.

<b>ACTION</b>	APVMA to provide CCC with a proposed framework for increased transparency and public access to APVMA liaison and consultative committee meetings after further consultation with the relevant committees.
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#### **5. OTHER BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING**

CCC61 will be held on Thursday 1 December 2011.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and input and closed CCC60 at 3pm.