



Regulator Statement of Intent 2026

This Regulator Statement of Intent is the response of the Board of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to the priorities of the Australian Government for the APVMA as expressed in the Ministerial Statement of Expectations issued by Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (dated 22 December 2025). The Board also notes the Ministerial Direction (issued 13 July 2023) concerning the finalisation of eight chemical reconsiderations.

The APVMA will work to meet the expectations of the Assistant Minister, and the Ministerial Direction of 13 July 2023, in a manner consistent with its statutory responsibilities as described in legislation, including the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992* and the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*.

Our purpose

We regulate agricultural and veterinary chemicals to protect the health and safety of people, animals and the environment, and to support primary industries, biosecurity and international trade for all Australians.

Our vision

To be a global leader in agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals regulation for the benefit of Australia.

Our values

The APVMA upholds the Australian Public Service (APS) Values as set out in the *Public Service Act 1999*, these being: 'impartial, committed to service, accountable, respectful, ethical and stewardship'.

Our operating context

The APVMA operates within a highly complex environment with rapidly emerging new technologies; changes in consumer and societal expectations; changing societal attitudes towards regulation and compliance; increasing biosecurity risk; and changing economic and climatic circumstances. While most of these factors are outside of APVMA's control, they represent risks which the agency must be capable of managing.

Our strategic approach

The Board has adopted a strategic plan to guide the APVMA over the period 2025 to 2030. The strategic objectives for the APVMA are:

- Being a trusted, transparent, and fair regulator
- Supporting a contemporary regulatory system
- Building foresight capability
- Striving for operational excellence
- Attracting, developing and retaining talented people

These objectives drive APVMA priorities, decision making and resource allocation and guide the development of the APVMA Corporate Plan and Portfolio Budget Statement.



Regulatory responsibilities

The APVMA is the independent statutory authority responsible, in partnership with the states and territories under the *National Registration Scheme for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals*, for the regulation of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines in Australia. The APVMA performs a vital role in ensuring that agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines used in Australia are safe and effective through a range of assessment, advisory, consultation administrative, investigatory and enforcement functions.

The APVMA is a corporate Commonwealth entity and operates within the relevant frameworks of the Australian Government, including the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the *Public Service Act 1999*.

The approach of the APVMA to its regulatory responsibilities is guided by its *Regulatory Posture Statement 2026–30*. The statement clearly articulates how the APVMA will regulate, how it will behave, and what the regulated community can expect from it. The approach is also aligned with the Australian Government's *Regulatory Policy, Practice & Performance Framework* and the 3 principles of best practice outlined in the Regulator Performance Guide (RMG 128). The Statement commits the APVMA to the following:

- We are accountable to the Australian public and to the Parliament.
- We deliver the full suite of our regulatory functions in accordance with our legislative obligations.
- We place the onus on applicants and registrants to satisfy the legislative requirements.
- We make consistent and predictable decisions that are data-driven and evidence-based.
- We apply risk-based approaches that support productivity.
- We act swiftly when there is evidence of non-compliance.
- We are clear and concise in our communications.

Ministerial Direction on chemical reconsiderations

The APVMA will continue to implement the Ministerial Direction (issued 13 July 2023) concerning the finalisation of eight long running chemical reconsiderations. The APVMA has completed four of these chemical reconsiderations. The APVMA will seek to make determinations on the remaining chemical reconsiderations in accordance with the relevant legislation.

All eight of the chemical reconsiderations are expected to be concluded in the near future, noting this is subject to risk assessment outcomes and the information received during public consultation. The APVMA is maintaining, and updating at least annually, a prioritised work program for all chemical reconsiderations (nominated, proposed, or active). Where new priorities arise, the APVMA will publish the change to the chemical reconsideration work plan. It is a strategic priority for the APVMA to build community confidence in the safety and efficacy of older registered agvet chemicals through enhancing the effectiveness of the chemical review and adverse experience reporting programs.

To implement the Ministerial Direction, the APVMA has needed to reallocate resources, which has, and will continue to affect timeframe performance associated with registration-related activities. The APVMA is taking a considered approach to ensure it balances and manages the entirety of its legislative responsibilities in responding to the direction. APVMA will continue to engage with government and stakeholders to ensure there is transparency with respect to those timelines.



The APVMA will continue to provide regular updates to the Minister / Assistant Minister in accordance with the direction. Ministerial briefings will be provided for each of the chemical reconsiderations as the APVMA approaches key decision points.

Regulatory reform and productivity agenda

The *Detailed Response to the Final Report on Future Structure and Governance Arrangements for the APVMA* (detailed response) was released on 4 November 2024. The detailed response outlines the government's reform agenda, including reforms already underway and additional policy analysis and research that will strengthen Australia's agvet chemicals regulatory system. The detailed response also outlines the significant work that the APVMA has already undertaken to improve its operations.

The detailed response provides a reform roadmap for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) and the APVMA. The APVMA is committed to working closely with the department to deliver the outcomes in the detailed response, noting each agency's closely linked but distinct responsibilities. As noted in the detailed response, a well-functioning collaborative relationship between policymakers and regulators ensures that effective, fit-for-purpose reforms can be delivered.

The APVMA acknowledges that improving Australia's productivity performance is a key priority for the Australian Government and that it is a whole-of-government objective for Commonwealth regulators to better balance risk mitigation with efficiency, growth and dynamism. The APVMA recognises that improving its performance can unlock significant productivity gains.

The APVMA will contribute to the government's regulatory reform and productivity agenda by:

- regularly reviewing its regulatory posture. Ensuring that agvet chemical products meet the statutory criteria will remain the priority, but the APVMA will seek to, where appropriate, balance this with a regulatory environment that supports innovation in agvet chemical products, small business and new market entrants
- improving its regulation of agvet chemicals in the context of the current system, and
- achieving its regulatory objectives efficiently and effectively, minimising the cost burden on industry.

The APVMA will consider at least annually, through its corporate plans, pursuing the proposals it made in response to the joint letter from the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance sent 4 July 2025 about reducing red tape and easing the burden on businesses. This includes:

- making approvals and processes faster through its Process Enhancement Initiative and applying digital solutions to work more efficiently,
- working with industry to develop the standards and specifications processes necessary to support more agvet chemical products gaining access to low burden pathways, and
- strengthening application standards, ensuring application processes and guidelines are fit for purpose for innovative products, better leveraging international assessments, and improving how regulatory tools align with the rest of the National Registration Scheme.

The APVMA will keep the Assistant Minister informed on progress on these ideas through regular Ministerial briefings and its Annual Report.



Advancing our regulatory performance and capabilities

The APVMA will continue to actively participate in international bilateral and multilateral discussions with an aim to better harmonise and better utilise trusted international regulatory peers insights, processes and data to enhance our regulatory performance and capabilities. These engagements provide opportunities for us to advance our regulatory performance in registration assessments, chemical reconsiderations and in compliance enforcement.

It is important to Australians that the APVMA uses the full range of its statutory powers to ensure compliance with the Agvet Code. The APVMA will take strong action to protect the community, such as actions to remove unregistered agvet chemical products from major online marketplaces. By taking compliance action like this, the APVMA further protects the health and safety of people, animals and the environment and it creates a level playing field in which all industry stakeholders can supply their agvet chemical products in the Australian market.

Long-term performance, sustainability and, integrity

The APVMA acknowledges that the Australian Government is committed to ensuring the long-term performance, sustainability and integrity of the APVMA and Australia's agvet chemicals regulatory system. The APVMA Board, through the APVMA senior executive, will be accountable for the long-term performance, sustainability and integrity of the APVMA. In support of achieving this outcome, the APVMA will:

- maintain high standards of public governance,
- ensure it operates on a financially sustainable basis across the long-term business cycle, and
- maintain a workplace culture based on the Australian Public Service Values, Code of Conduct and Employment Principles.

The APVMA will comply with the requirements of the whole-of-government resource management framework under the PGPA Act. It will be efficient in its operations and demonstrate value for money in performing its functions.

The APVMA is ultimately accountable to the Australian public and to the Parliament for the performance of its regulatory functions and its governance and operations as a Commonwealth entity. It will conduct itself in a transparent, accountable and responsive manner, ensuring it is focused on delivering firm and fair regulatory outcomes for all Australians. Where significant risks and issues are identified, the APVMA Board will ensure the Assistant Minister is advised at the earliest opportunity.

Engagement

Trust in the APVMA by the Australian community is critical to maintaining confidence in Australian agvet chemicals. The APVMA will engage with its external stakeholders to ensure it is regarded as a trusted, transparent and fair regulator. This engagement will primarily occur through the new engagement model implemented in 2025, which includes the APVMA Advisory Group, the Agricultural Chemicals and Veterinary Medicines working groups and the National Registration Scheme Advisory Group. The APVMA will keep the Assistant Minister informed of significant risks and issues on matters of concern to its external stakeholders.



Australian Government

**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

The APVMA will maintain robust, effective and collaborative working partnerships with other Commonwealth, state and territory agencies, as well as counterpart regulators in international jurisdictions, to ensure the proper functioning of Australia's regulatory framework.

To maintain robust, effective and collaborative working partnerships, the APVMA will continue to engage in key communities of practice, participate in regulatory education activities, and collaborate with relevant Australian Government working groups. The APVMA will also use these opportunities to share knowledge, discuss improvement practices, and regulatory best practices as demonstrated by Australian and international peers.

The APVMA will continue to engage actively with relevant international counterpart regulators and monitor the global regulatory operating environment. This will assist the APVMA to identify opportunities for leveraging cooperation and more efficient approaches to ensuring agvet chemicals remain safe and effective that can lead to less burden on users and industry.

Relationship with the Assistant Minister and portfolio

The APVMA acknowledges that the Assistant Minister, working with their department, intends to ensure policy and legislation governing agvet chemicals and the APVMA remain effective and fit for purpose. To support this, the APVMA will continue to provide timely advice to government regarding the legislative and policy framework, including scope for reform and improvement. This advice will be informed by ongoing consultation and collaboration with industry and other stakeholders.

While remaining an independent statutory authority, the APVMA is committed to working closely with the Assistant Minister's department, as well as the remaining portfolio regulators to ensure a joined-up approach, while advancing and sharing best practice regulation. It will also work closely with the department and Assistant Minister to ensure that the APVMA remains appropriately resourced through its cost recovery arrangements and/or other government funding mechanisms to ensure its financial sustainability.

The Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer will be scheduled to meet regularly with the Assistant Minister. The Chief Executive Officer and senior executives of the agencies will routinely engage with officers of the department.

18 February 2026