



Australian Government

Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14



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**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

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This publication is available from the APVMA website (apvma.gov.au).

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



Australian Government
**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP
Minister for Agriculture
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Joyce,

I am pleased to submit the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) annual report for the year ending 30 June 2014 for your agreement to table.

The APVMA is required by the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992* to give to you an annual report on its operations for the preceding financial year. The report must contain the financial statements detailed in section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) and an audit report on those statements under section 57 of the FMA Act. It must also comply with the annual report requirements under subsections 63(2) and 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. I confirm that this annual report complies with these requirements.

Also, in accordance with the *Commonwealth fraud control guidelines*, I certify that the APVMA has prepared a fraud risk assessment and a fraud control plan, and has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kareena Arthy'.

Ms Kareena Arthy
Chief Executive Officer

24 September 2014

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VISION AND MISSION

VISION

The Australian community has confidence that agricultural and veterinary chemicals available in Australia are safe to use.

MISSION

To regulate agricultural and veterinary chemicals to protect the health and safety of people, animals and crops, the environment and trade, and support Australian primary industries.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT AND OUTLOOK

This has been a busy and challenging year across the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Combined with our regular responsibilities and following the passage of legislation in late June 2013, we focused significant effort on updating our systems and processes, and assisting industry and stakeholders to get ready for the legislative reforms that will commence on 1 July 2014.

To provide greater certainty for industry, we reviewed and revised our entire suite of regulatory guidance material to bring it into line with the new laws. We made a draft version available to industry for comment in January 2014, and a final version was published in mid-May 2014.

Face-to-face information and training sessions were delivered to around 600 people. These sessions provided practical assistance for industry on how to get ready for the changes, and were also a great opportunity for the APVMA to receive timely and relevant feedback about proposed systems and processes.

Continuing our commitment to improve the way we do things at the APVMA, and to make it easier for industry to interact with us, this year we built and delivered new online services and a new website. This means that applications for approval and registration of chemicals, and payments of fees and levies can now be done through an integrated and secure online system. Our new case management system delivers more efficient management of both applications and enquiries.

An independent review of our registration processes has informed a program of business improvements across the organisation and also resulted in the development of an exciting new project that will enable us to better match regulatory effort to regulatory risk. Over time, we expect to implement 'lighter touch' approaches to applications assessed as being of lower regulatory risk. This work is groundbreaking, and promises to reduce the regulatory burden on a significant section of the agricultural and veterinary chemical industry.

During this period of reform and improvement, we have continued to deliver on our core business, with more than 2500 applications finalised over the year. Our Chemical Review Program resulted in 261 regulatory actions; cancellation of 2 active constituent approvals, 11 product registrations and 118 product labels; and variation of 130 label approvals.

Engagement with other government agencies and our international counterparts continued to inform our decision-making in 2013-14. Continuing our scientific leadership, we published a literature review of neonicotinoid insecticides, hosted a symposium on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and continued our work on regulatory matters relating to nanomaterials.

We have another full year ahead of us, and there is still much to be done.

Our commitment to regulatory excellence and a strong business improvement program will continue in 2014-15 as we work towards making the APVMA a contemporary world-class regulator.

I am pleased to present this annual report of our work in 2013-14.

Kareena Arthy

Chief Executive Officer

September 2014