



Australian Government
Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority



CORPORATE PLAN
2012–15



CORPORATE PLAN
2012–15

© Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority 2012

ISBN 978-0-9873041-7-9 (print)

ISBN 978-0-9873041-8-6 (electronic)

ISSN 2200-8314 (print)

ISSN 2200-8322 (electronic)

Ownership of intellectual property rights in this publication

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights, if any) in this publication is owned by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Creative Commons licence

With the exception of the Coat of Arms, some photographic images and the Twitter icon, this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence.



Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence is a standard form license agreement that allows you to copy, distribute, transmit and adapt this publication provided that you attribute the work.

A summary of the licence terms is available from <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>.

The full licence terms are available from <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/legalcode>.

The APVMA's preference is that you attribute this publication (and any approved material sourced from it) using the following wording:

Source: Licensed from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence. The APVMA does not necessarily endorse the content of this publication.

The APVMA logo (including the Australian Government Coat of Arms) and photographic images not owned by the APVMA may not be reproduced or re-used under this licence.

Use of the Coat of Arms

The terms under which the Coat of Arms can be used are set out on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website (see <http://www.dpmc.gov.au/guidelines/>).

Comments and enquiries can be made to:

The Manager, Public Affairs
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
PO Box 6182
KINGSTON ACT 2604
Australia

Telephone: +61 2 6210 4812

Email: communications@apvma.gov.au

In referencing this document the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority should be cited as both author and publisher.

This publication is available from the APVMA website: www.apvma.gov.au.

Photographic credits

Cover: iStockphoto

Pages 1, 3, 4, 12: iStockphoto

Page 5: APVMA

iStockphoto images are not covered by this Creative Commons licence.



Contents

Chief Executive Officer's message	5
Our role, our work	6
Our governance framework	6
APVMA's authority and reporting	8
Our operating environment: challenges and opportunities	10
What we want to achieve: a strategic framework	11
Our performance	11
How we work: our values	14



Chief Executive Officer's message



The next three years will be crucial for the APVMA as it integrates the government's proposed legislative reforms for agvet chemical regulation into 'business as usual'.

We will implement these reforms to strengthen the regulatory framework to better support continued protection of human health and the environment; reduce the regulatory burdens on industry and businesses; and enhance our business and operational functions.

As a result, the APVMA will be a very different organisation. We will embed a 'firm and fair' regulatory posture in everything we do. We will step up our compliance and enforcement actions to strengthen the integrity of the supply of agvet chemicals in Australia, and apply these new powers responsibly. We will ensure our priorities are commensurate with risks in delivering scientific, evidence-based evaluations and reviews.

This corporate plan shows how we will embrace the changes arising from the reforms, how we will prepare our staff to work in this new culture, and how we will reinforce the corporate values that underpin our work.

We accept that reform and change can be difficult. It will be challenging for our registration clients, our stakeholders and our staff. We are committed to

working in a proactive, open and respectful manner with all as we bed down the reforms. Importantly, we must remain accountable to government, industry, stakeholders and, ultimately, the Australian community we serve.

We are implementing new technologies to improve our business operations and efficiency. We will also improve efficiency through greater cooperation and collaboration with our national partners and international counterparts. We will continue to contribute to the government's First Principles Review of our cost recovery arrangements to ensure they are equitable and sustainable.

We will maintain our strong science-based approach to managing risk, with the safety of the community and the environment being paramount. To enhance accountability, transparency and predictability we are developing new ways of engaging and interacting with our stakeholders and clients to ensure we maintain rigour in our activities.

Our people are our key resource. We can only achieve our aims through their dedication and integrity. We are committed to their continued development against an evolving operational environment.

This plan will be reviewed each year and achievements and changing priorities will be reflected in our annual operational plans.

Dr Eva Bennet-Jenkins

Our role, our work

The APVMA is an independent statutory authority responsible for the assessment and registration of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines (agvet chemicals) and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale. The authority sits within the portfolio of the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The APVMA administers the National Registration Scheme for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals and the scheme's legislation in partnership with state and territory governments and a number of Australian government agencies.

Australia's system for managing agvet chemicals is a risk management system designed to provide a systematic, structured and scientific, evidence-based approach to our decision-making.

We independently evaluate the safety and performance of chemicals intended for sale in Australia, ensuring that the health and safety of people, animals and crops, the environment and trade are protected. Before they can be registered, chemicals and products must be shown to work and be safe for people and the environment. Registered products must also not unduly jeopardise Australia's trade with other nations.

The APVMA's role extends beyond registration for veterinary medicines: manufacturers are licensed and audited by us to ensure adherence to contemporary manufacturing standards.

We manage an adverse experience reporting program designed to ensure early detection of problems with registered chemicals when used as intended.

The authority also monitors the market for compliance and reviews registered agvet chemicals to ensure that they continue to meet contemporary high standards.

The states and territories are responsible for regulating and managing the use of agvet chemicals once they are sold.

Our governance framework

The APVMA's governance framework begins with its role as the manager and administrator of the National Registration Scheme for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRS) which came into full operation in 1995. The NRS is underpinned by a comprehensive framework of commonwealth, state and territory legislation, regulations and codes of practice and an inter-governmental agreement.

The scheme comprises three main tiers: policy and legislation; assessment and registration; and control of use. These elements and the role of the APVMA and partners in the NRS are shown to the right.

The National Registration Scheme for agvet chemicals (NRS)

Policy and legislation

- Inter-governmental agreement (with supporting commonwealth, state and territory legislation)
- Standing Council on Primary Industries

Assessment and registration

- APVMA
- Assessment input:
 - Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
 - Office of Chemical Safety, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
 - Food Standards Australia New Zealand
 - Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
 - Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Biosecurity)

Control of use

- State and territory government agencies

APVMA's authority and reporting

Legislation

The *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992* (the Administration Act) sets out the APVMA's role as an independent statutory authority undertaking the Australian Government's responsibilities under the NRS.

The *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* (the Code Act) contains the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code (the Agvet Code) as a schedule. The states and territories have mirror legislation—agvet codes—consistent with the arrangements set out in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994*.

The APVMA's functions and powers are conferred by the Administration Act and by the agvet codes of the states and territories.

The Agvet Code makes provision for the evaluation, registration and control of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines and related matters.

Reporting

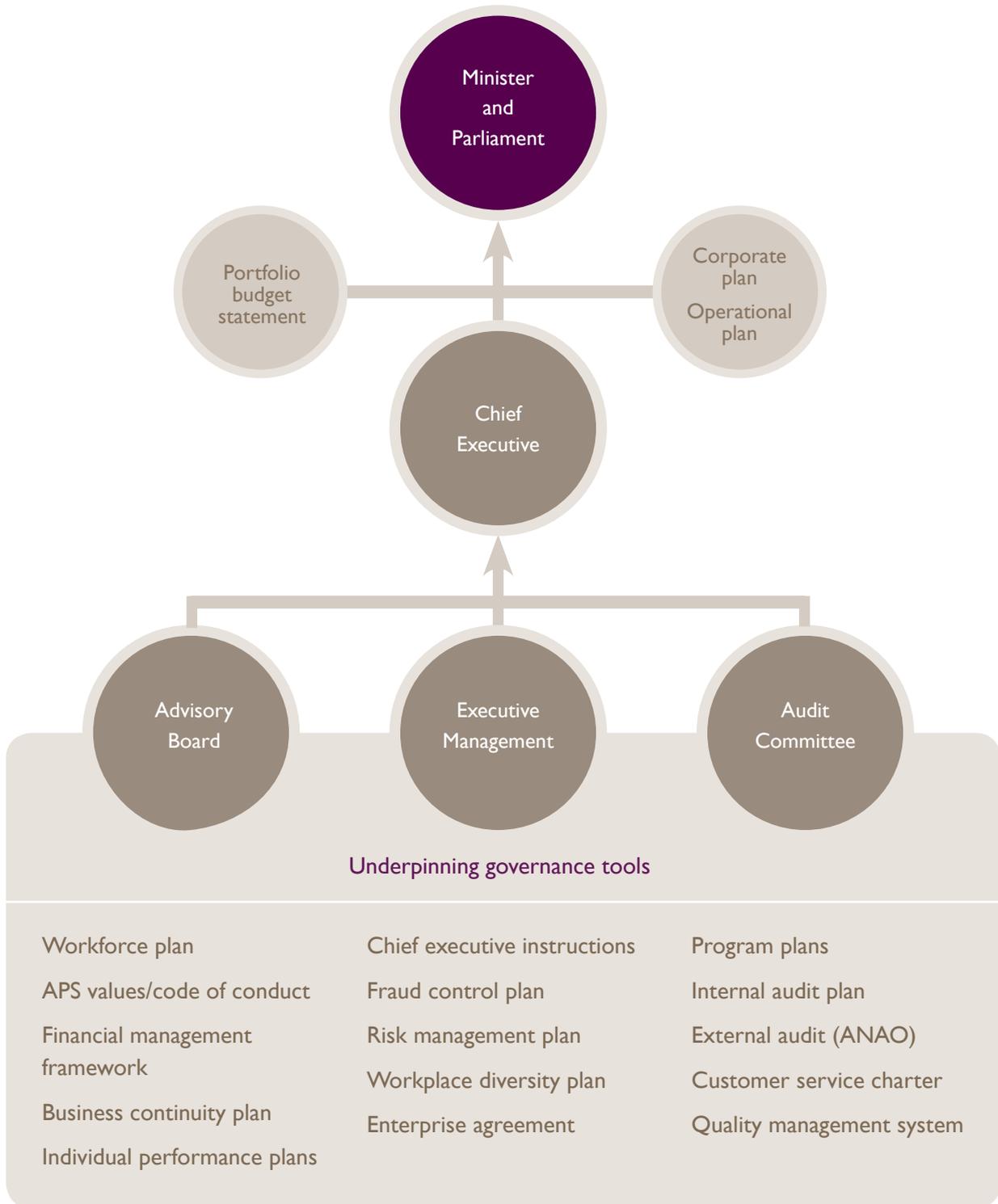
The APVMA is required by its legislation to report on its activities including:

- a fortnightly Gazette providing details of registrations, changes to registrations and related legislative instruments
- the annual value of agvet chemical sales
- annual reports tabled in the Australian Parliament
- registration performance reporting.

Corporate governance

The APVMA's corporate governance and accountability arrangements include a requirement for key strategic and operational planning documents to be approved by the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Once approved, implementation and oversight of agreed goals and activities is the responsibility of the authority's chief executive officer, taking advice from an advisory board appointed by the minister, an executive management team, and an audit committee. The authority's financial statements are audited annually by the Australian National Audit Office. Underpinning these arrangements are a series of internal policies and procedures, including those required under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Corporate Governance Structure



Our operating environment: challenges and opportunities

The regulation of agvet chemicals is a dynamic and complex activity with national and international dimensions. During the life of this corporate plan, the APVMA will face a challenging and rapidly changing operating environment.

The government has identified regulation of chemicals and plastics as a regulatory reform hot spot and a program of reform agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is already well advanced. Improvements to date include the promulgation of maximum residue limits into the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and streamlined regulatory processes for specific agricultural and veterinary chemicals and approval of labels.

In 2012, reform to the APVMA's governing legislation will trigger major transformational change to the way in which the authority conducts its assessment and registration processes.

Business transformation will require a focus on: cultural change; increasing certainty, transparency and predictability for applicants and registrants; extensive training; and extending and improving links with Australian Government health and environmental agencies as well as our international linkages to access existing expertise and knowledge.

Adding to the challenges will be a need to operate transitional systems until the reforms are fully implemented. A systematic review of the current agvet chemical inventory under the Reregistration Scheme and providing input to a major First Principles Review of our cost recovery arrangements will require significant effort and stakeholder engagement.

Changes will be particularly challenging for APVMA staff as we strive to balance efficiency and effectiveness in order to meet new timelines and provide more certainty for registrants in delivering scientific, evidence-based evaluations and reviews. The ability to exercise good judgement in an accountable fashion will be essential for the new APVMA.

For APVMA clients—our registrants and permit holders—the changes will be equally challenging: an enhanced program of communication and

consultation will be essential. We will develop a regulatory plan that clearly articulates when and how we will consult with stakeholders on regulatory and corporate matters. This will allow stakeholders to better plan and respond to issues in this changing environment.

Stakeholders and the community more generally will also have expectations for the benefits expected to accrue from the reforms and we will focus on setting clear boundaries and establishing common goals to manage these expectations.

Over the life of this corporate plan, further policy changes relating to the 'control of use' aspects of the NRS may impact on the way we conduct our work, especially with our state and territory partners.

As well as these specific changes, the APVMA also needs to consider the more general Australian Public Service reform agenda outlined in *Ahead of the Game*, and freedom of information and other information accessibility and publishing reforms under Gov 2.0 policy.

Over and above the reform agenda outlined above, emerging regulatory science issues such as nanotechnology, gene technology and other novel approaches to managing pests and diseases in agriculture will continue to offer professional challenges and influence the regulatory and risk management frameworks we operate under.

Demographic and climate issues will also provide important context for the APVMA's work in the future: with a world population of more than seven billion people, food security will become an important policy issue for governments. Agvet chemicals will play a critical role in helping deliver a safe and efficient food supply in Australia and for our export markets. Changing climates will also dramatically alter the pest and disease profiles that require agvet chemicals to manage unwanted effects.

In short, the next three years are set to provide the most challenging environment the APVMA has faced since the commencement of the NRS: we will need to do more, more efficiently, against a regulatory framework that aims to reduce the regulatory burden on industry.

What we want to achieve: a strategic framework

Regulatory reform, commensurate with risk, drives the APVMA's new strategic framework.

The APVMA's reputation will be a marker for overall community confidence in the National Regulation Scheme for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals. In 2012–15, reform and transformation are new themes that are part of every facet of our strategic thinking and direction.

Underpinning our business transformation will be a systematic and comprehensive approach to articulating and managing risk. In responding positively to our operating environment we will continue to use leading edge regulatory science to inform our decision making and actively engage with our stakeholders to maintain confidence in the regulatory system.

Our performance

It is with these ideas firmly in mind that the APVMA will look to continue building community confidence and respect for the regulatory system we oversee.

The APVMA is committed to transparency and providing feedback on how well we perform against the Portfolio Budget Statement deliverables and performance indicators. We will do this by developing suitable performance indicators in our annual operational plans under our strategic framework and report against these in our annual reports. As part of this approach we will regularly seek feedback from our clients and stakeholders and take their views into account in assessing our performance.





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.

VISION

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

Objectives

Strategies

Mission and vision statements

Deliver the benefits of more efficient regulation to business and the community

Be transparent, consistent and predictable in delivering our regulatory services and decisions

Focus efficiency and effectiveness measures on the protection of human, animal and plant health, the environment and trade

Be respected and trusted for the regulatory decisions we take

Integrate government reforms into core business

Conduct robust, risk-based, scientific evaluations to support sound regulatory decisions

Identify and reconsider existing chemicals of regulatory concern

Identify and resolve non-compliance

Identify and manage emerging regulatory issues

Engage stakeholders and regulatory partners to add value to our work

Conduct our business efficiently and effectively

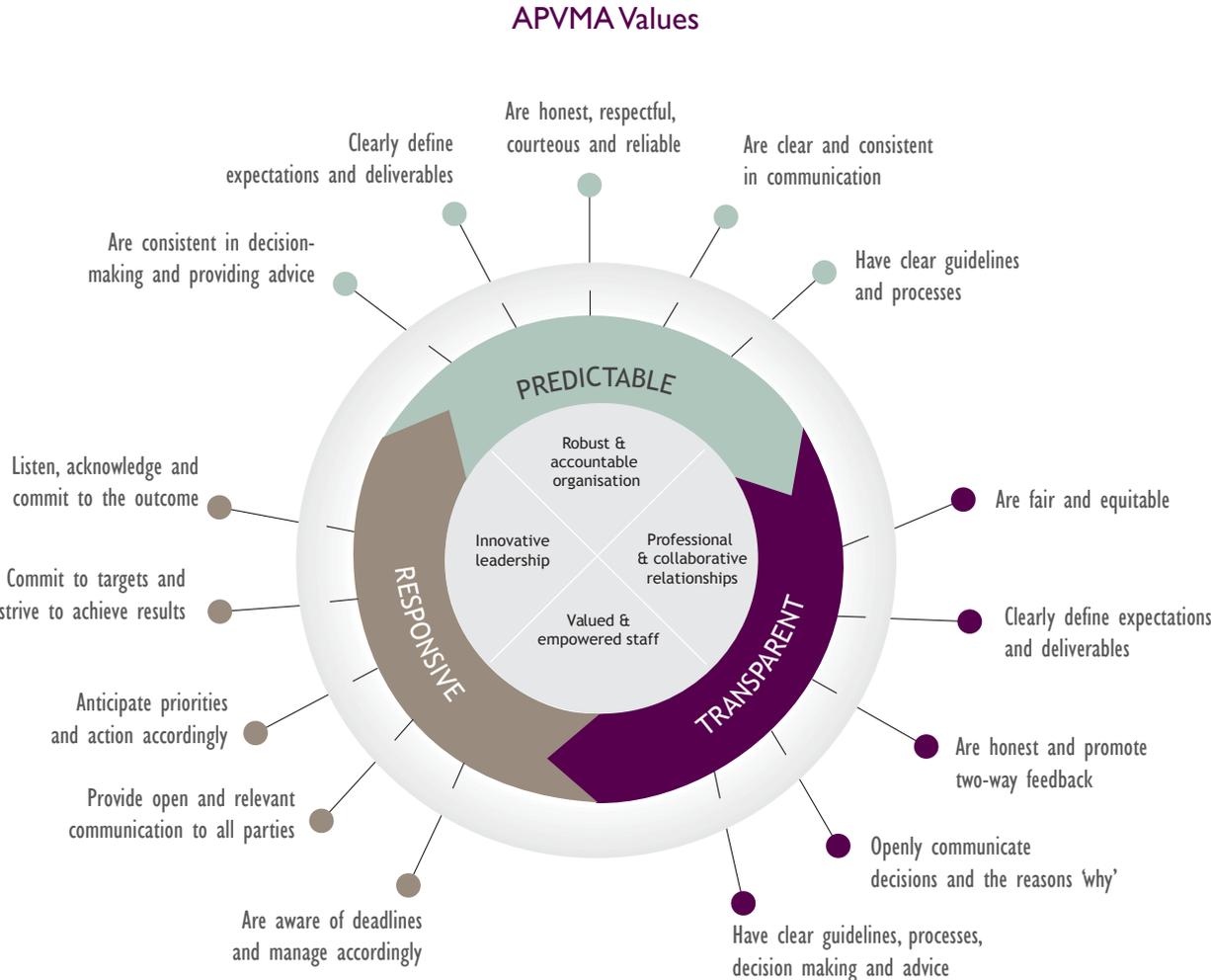
Enhance performance through our people

Enabling Strategies

How we work: our values

Fundamental to the achievement of agvet chemical regulation is the set of attitudes and behaviours that our staff bring to our work. These define who we are and guide us in our dealings with everyone and in everything we do. This is what we are attempting to capture in our statements of the APVMA Values,

which are intended to describe in a few words what it means to be an APVMA employee. Although the particular focus of APVMA activity may change over time as community needs change, these values endure, unifying the APVMA across time.





THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Contact us

More information about the APVMA and how it discharges its important national role can be found in the government's Portfolio Budget Statement, our annual report and annual operational plan. The latter documents can be found on the APVMA website at www.apvma.gov.au and the portfolio budget statement on www.daff.gov.au.

Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority
18 Wormald St
Symonston ACT 2609

PO Box 6182
Kingston ACT 2604 Australia
www.apvma.gov.au

 Follow @APVMA