



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



# **CORPORATE PLAN 2009 - 2012**

# Chief Executive Officer's message

This Corporate Plan provides direction for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's (APVMA) activities over the next three years.

The plan outlines our principal objectives for this period of enhancing our reputation by promoting confidence, communicating our role clearly, and working as a team with national and international government agencies to enhance our capability and efficiency. To achieve these objectives we will focus on our performance and our people, and will continue to pursue technical and ethical excellence.

The plan recognises that the environment in which we operate is undergoing significant change. Accordingly, our emphasis over the next three years will be to foster stability and resilience while embracing the Government's regulatory reform agenda. We aim to develop strong and constructive relationships, and will be responsive to our stakeholders' needs and expectations.

We will continue to be highly engaged with leading edge science and use this information in decision making. We will scan our environment for new developments. We will ensure that our risk assessment framework remains at the forefront of international best practice.

We will strengthen our cooperation with our national partners and international counterparts to enhance regulatory efficiency, support innovation and facilitate access to new technology for the benefit of the Australian community and industries.

The APVMA relies on fees and levies collected from product registrants to fund its activities and meet its objectives. The review of the cost recovery arrangements conducted in 2009 aims to provide a sustainable and reliable source of revenue that will provide the APVMA with the capacity to meet these objectives and deliver a quality regulatory framework.

This Corporate Plan will direct our energies over the next three years. It will provide a framework for our annual operational plans and be the measure against which we assess our success.



*Eva Bennet-Jenkins*

Dr Eva Bennet-Jenkins

# Who we are and what we do

## Our role

The APVMA is the Australian Government statutory authority responsible for the assessment and registration of pesticides and veterinary medicines, and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale. It sits within the portfolio of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The APVMA is responsible for administering and managing the National Registration Scheme for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals, which sets out the regulatory framework for the management of pesticides and veterinary medicines in Australia. The APVMA administers the scheme's legislation in partnership with state and territory governments and with the active involvement of other Australian government agencies.

The role of the APVMA is to independently evaluate the safety and performance of pesticides and veterinary medicines intended for sale, ensuring that the health and safety of people, animals and crops, the environment and trade are protected. All registered 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.

To ensure that only those products that meet the APVMA's requirements are actually supplied, the authority constantly monitors the market for compliance. The APVMA also reviews registered chemical products to ensure that they continue to meet contemporary high standards.

The states and territories are responsible for regulating and managing the use of pesticides and veterinary medicines once they are sold.

## Our work

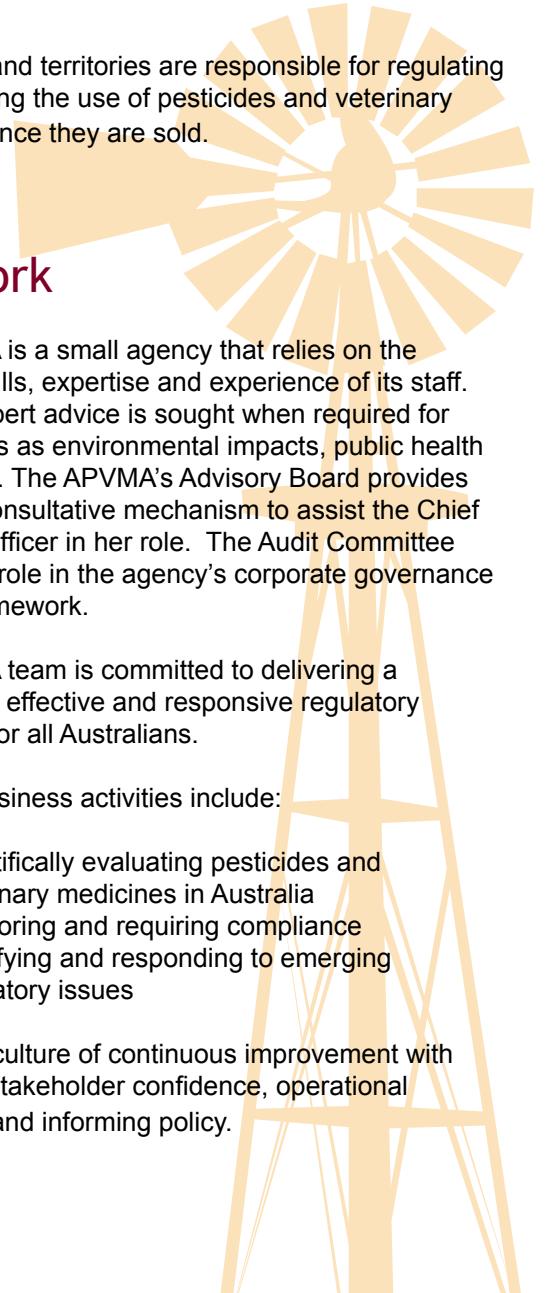
The APVMA is a small agency that relies on the technical skills, expertise and experience of its staff. External expert advice is sought when required for such matters as environmental impacts, public health and efficacy. The APVMA's Advisory Board provides an expert consultative mechanism to assist the Chief Executive Officer in her role. The Audit Committee plays a key role in the agency's corporate governance and risk framework.

The APVMA team is committed to delivering a transparent, effective and responsive regulatory framework for all Australians.

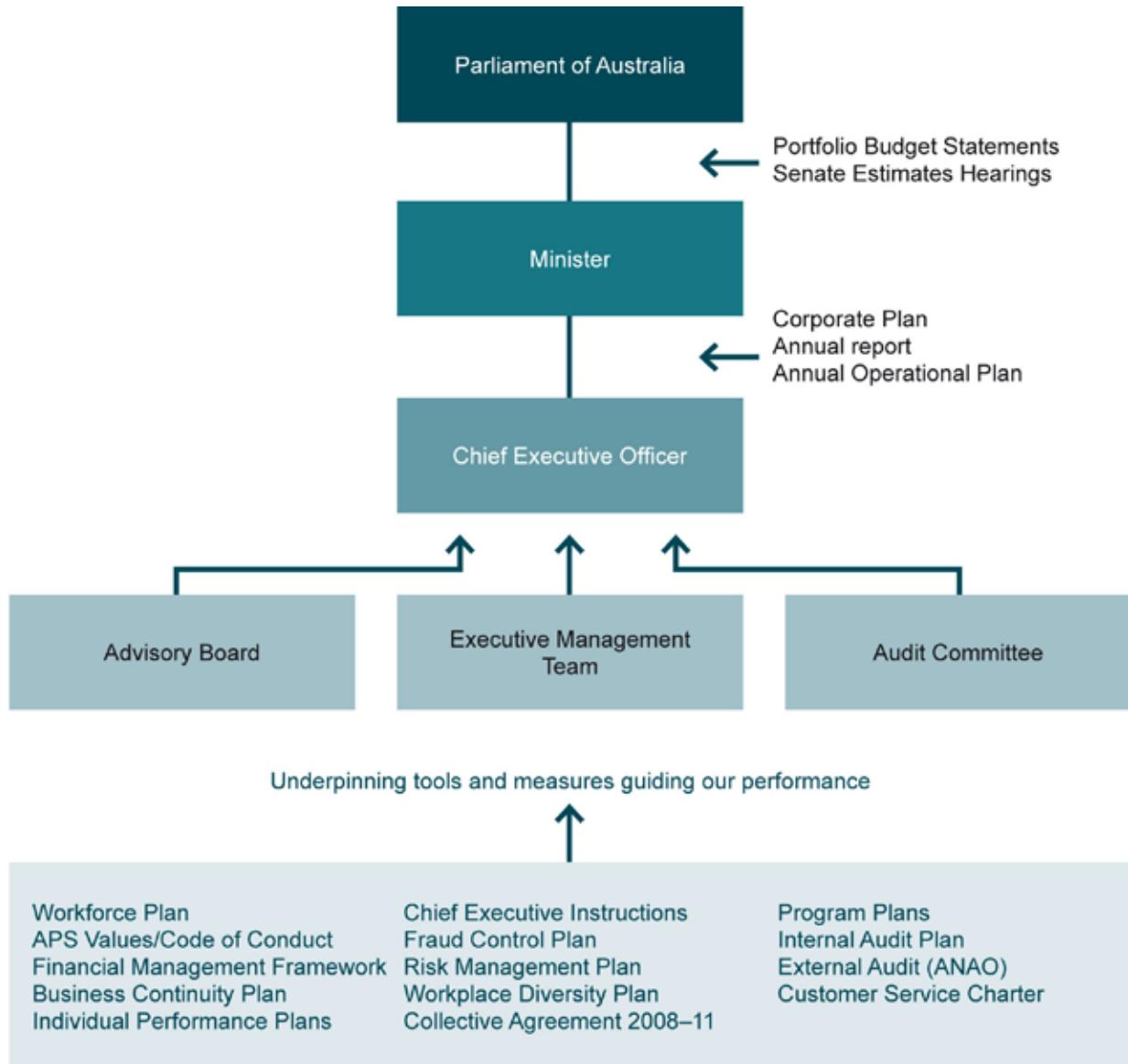
Our core business activities include:

- scientifically evaluating pesticides and veterinary medicines in Australia
- monitoring and requiring compliance
- identifying and responding to emerging regulatory issues

We have a culture of continuous improvement with a focus on stakeholder confidence, operational excellence and informing policy.



# How we are governed



## Challenges and opportunities

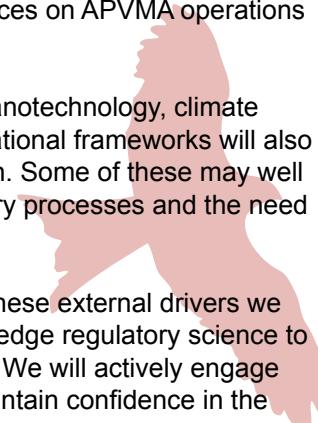
The regulation of pesticides and veterinary medicines is a dynamic and complex activity with national and international dimensions. Changing community expectations, increasing scientific understandings and evolving risk management strategies are key elements of this dynamism.

Changes in the external environment over the next few years are expected to pose new challenges to the APVMA. Some of these external drivers already appear on the horizon. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG), for example, has recently proposed the development of a single national control-of-use framework to replace current arrangements. Policy changes made at this level will trigger major transformational change within the National Registration Scheme and ultimately for the APVMA.

The international economic downturn is already having implications for the chemicals industry, primary producers and the general economy. The drought continues to hold much of Australia in its grip. The potential impact of these forces on APVMA operations is yet to be fully understood.

Emerging issues such as nanotechnology, climate change and evolving international frameworks will also require careful consideration. Some of these may well prompt changes to regulatory processes and the need for new policy frameworks.

In responding positively to these external drivers we will continue to use leading edge regulatory science to inform our decision making. We will actively engage with our stakeholders to maintain confidence in the regulatory system.



# What we want to achieve

## Objectives

The key objective for 2009-2012 is to enhance our reputation. We will achieve this through:

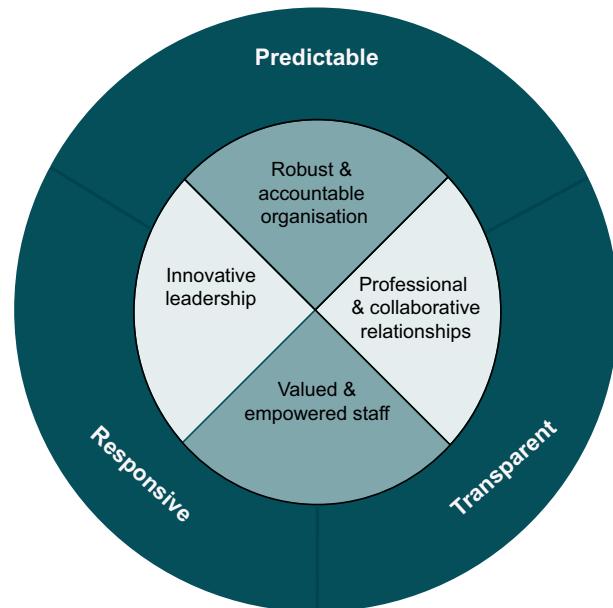
- promoting confidence through consistent, predictable and transparent decision-making.
- enhancing awareness of how our regulatory activities protect people, the environment and trade.
- engaging with other government agencies to enhance regulatory efficiency.
- enhancing the capability of our people and our systems.

## Corporate strategies

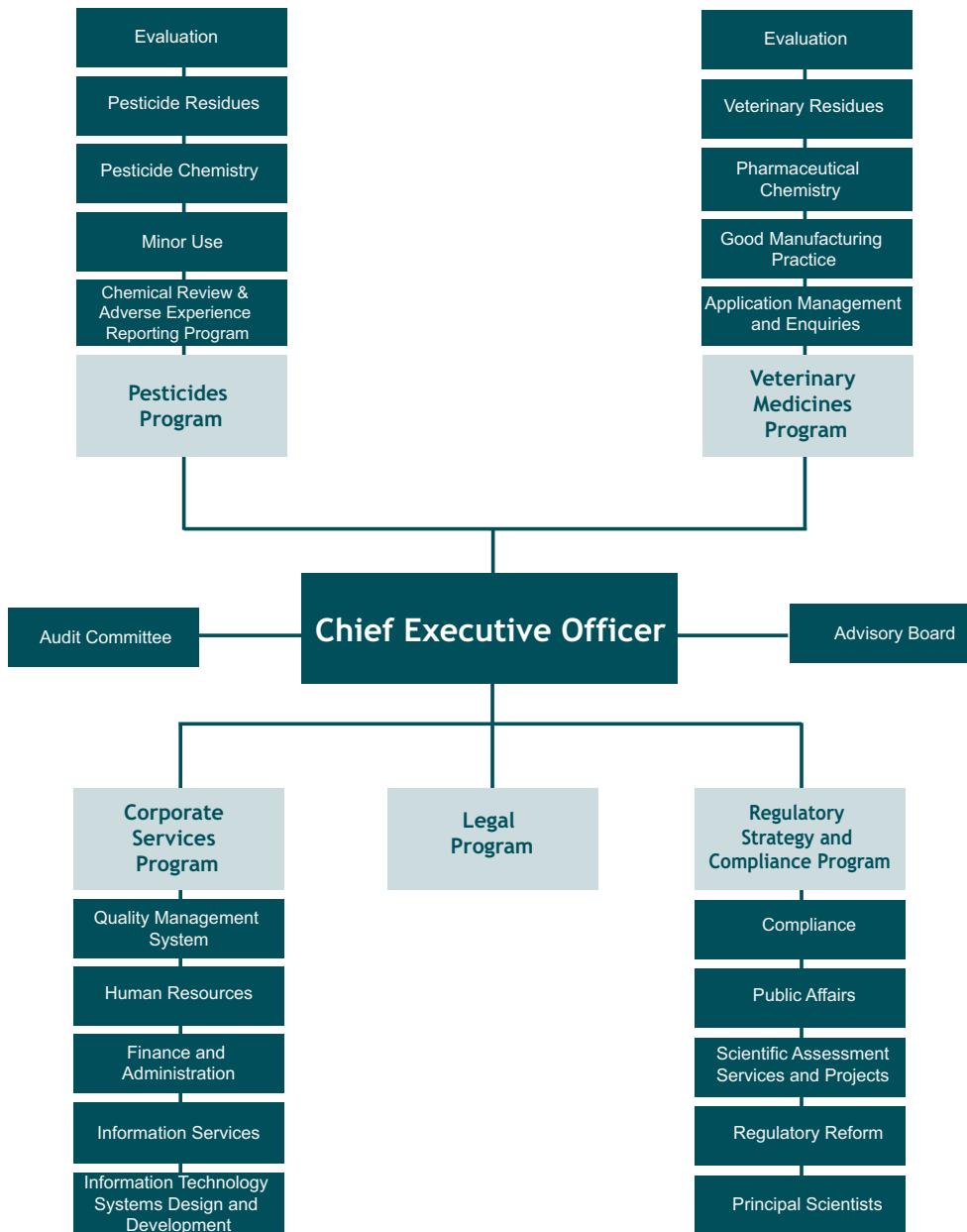
Our key strategies in delivering these objectives will be to:

- use robust risk-based methods to scientifically evaluate pesticides and veterinary medicines used in Australia.
- keep all our stakeholders informed of regulatory matters and consider their views.
- review registered chemicals to ensure they meet contemporary standards.
- seek and use stakeholder feedback to inform regulatory activities.
- require and monitor compliance with legislative requirements to maintain confidence in the regulatory framework.
- identify and manage emerging regulatory issues.
- conduct our business efficiently and effectively.
- value our people.

## APVMA values



# Structure of the APVMA



## Contact us

More information about the APVMA and how it discharges its important national role can be found in the Portfolio Budget Statement, the annual report and the annual Operational Plan. These documents can be found on the APVMA website at [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au).



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