

# NATIONAL WORKING PARTY ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

## Chair's October 2020 Newsletter

### Introduction

The National Working Party on Pesticide Applications (NWPPA) was established in 2011 as a vehicle to bring a national, coordinated technical approach to spray drift issues.

Our vision is that the regulatory system is science based and recognises the use of drift reduction technologies, better education and practice to enable the use of smaller, practical buffer zones.

The NWPPA Executive Committee (EC) guides the work of the NWPPA and comprises technical representatives from spray manufacturers, grower groups, spray applicators and research and development corporations from across viticulture, horticulture and broad acre agriculture.

The EC is supported by the Technical Working Group, (TWG), a group of scientists from the APVMA, Department of Environment, GRDC, Plant Health Australia, The University of Queensland and chemical regulatory experts. The TWG reviews available (and commissioned) data that could support a technical approach to the spray drift assessment of pesticides and that would meet the needs of the NWPPA and regulators

The last report was issued in July 2019. This report attempts to provide a summary of what the NWPPA has achieved since then. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 no 2020 Annual meeting had to be cancelled.

### Activities since June 2019

- 1) July 2019. The Secretary met with Sugar Research Australia and we welcomed Harjeet Khanna to the Executive Committee.
- 2) The Jurisdictional Spray Drift Working Group (JSDWG) which includes the APVMA met in August 2019. Nicholas Woods represented the NWPPA. The key outcome was: The meeting reported there isn't a legislative barrier to implementation of a Spray Drift Management Tool (SDMT) in stage two of the APVMA Spray Drift Policy

- 1) 25 November 2019. The Secretary and Chair held a video conference with APVMA to discuss the implementation of Stage 2 of the APVMA Spray Drift Policy. The outcome was:
  - a. A proposal to form a small NWPPA reference group to work with the APVMA.
  - b. The APVMA requested NWPPA assistance with preparing new guidelines to implement Stage 1 for already registered products.
  - c. The NWPPA to prepare a paper identifying which elements of Stage 1 modelling could be adopted for Stage 2.
  - d. The NWPPA Technical Working Group to publish the technical work submitted to the APVMA for their Spray Drift Management Policy Manual.

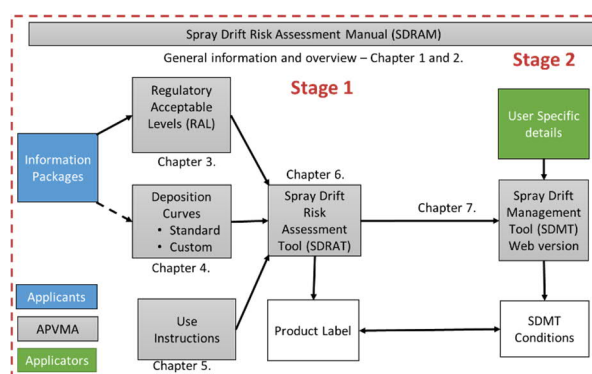


Fig. 1 Proposed APVMA Spray Drift Assessment System

- 2) 16 December 2019. The Executive committee met to discuss the outcome of the November 25 meeting. The committee endorsed the outcomes and the Reference group was formed comprising Colin Sharpe, Nicholas Woods, Dave Rumbold, Rohan Rainbow, Gordon Cumming and Phil Hurst. Alex Sas later joined the group. It was proposed Andrew Hewitt be approached to write the Technical paper.
- 3) 4 February 2020. The Reference Group held a video conference with the APVMA. The outcome was an agreement for the NWPPA to prepare an implementations options paper for



Stage 2. Dave Rumbold prepared the technical paper that was first considered by the Executive Committee before being forwarded to the APVMA on April 1. The APVMA used the paper to prepare a Stage 2 implementation plan

- 4) 7 April 2020. The Reference Group held a video conference with the APVMA and the States to present the options paper. The outcome was a request for the NWPPA to prepare an options paper that (a) described the primary benefits of Stage 2, (b) the outputs and record keeping parameters generated by the SDMT and (c) information access technologies that could potentially be made available to support applicator, APVMA and jurisdictional requirements.
- 5) June 2020. The output options paper prepared by Dave Rumbold was reviewed by the Executive Committee and forwarded to the APVMA and the States.
- 6) July 2020. The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment Agvet Group put forward a proposal to conduct a limited pilot of Stage 2 with NSW EPA. The NWPPA Reference Group agreed to scope this proposal. The proposal requires identifying and working with selected grower organisations to select candidate products and suitable cropping areas in NSW to run the pilot.

It is proposed to issue permits to enable the use of agreed DRT's off label for specified products. The permit would be held by the relevant grower organisation who would also administer the pilot.

Grain Producers Australia and Wine Australia agreed to support the pilot, however no suitable candidate products are currently available in the viticulture industry. It is proposed to discuss the opportunity further with Apple and Pear Limited.

Importantly, recent changes made by the APVMA to recognise European deposition data, recent reduction in trade MRL's and improved science-based modelling settings, has resulted in the reduction of downwind buffer distances for many viticulture products. This has occurred in part as a result of the submissions made by the NWPPA to the APVMA Spray Drift Management Policy.

At the time of writing further discussion around the details of the Permit and the conduct of the Pilot is ongoing.

It is proposed to start the Pilot in early 2021.

- 7) The APVMA recently requested the NWPPA to provide comment on two spray drift draft guidelines:
  - a. for spray drift labelling, where full assessment has not been undertaken
  - b. for applications to update spray drift risk assessments and recognize new DRTs.

The draft guidelines were circulated to members for review. Comments were provided by some NWPPA members and these guidelines are now operational.

- 8) The Wine Australia field day that was planned to be held in conjunction with the NWPPA Annual meeting was subsequently held as a virtual workshop in May. It was hosted by Dr Andrew Hewitt (UQ) in conjunction with the APVMA and

Wine Australia. An update on drift from vertical application was presented.



Discussion was held on how to incorporate new DRTs into APVMA spray drift risk assessments. This has now been addressed in a new APVMA guideline.

A key outcome was an agreement to request the Croplife convene a working group to review the lable application directions for veritcal crops. This has occurred and the current direction confirmed as appropriate. UQ (Andrew Hewiit) are also providing further data to validate buffer vegetation models.

### Training and Education

The NWPPA has supported in principle a grant application from John Kent for funding an analysis of pesticide application training.

### NWPPA 2020 - 2021

A virtual meeting of the Executive committee will be held in October to discuss the future of the NWPPA for 2020/21 and review its terms of Reference. If necessary, a virtual meeting of the NWPPA members will be held to discuss the decision of the Executive committee.

It is clear from recent interaction with the APVMA that opportunities exist for the NWPPA to continue its efforts to provide a forum to assist growers and other stakeholders understand current APVMA policy and work with the Regulators and government agencies to implement Stage 2 of the APVMA Spray Drift Policy.

For the NWPPA to continue its work further funding will be requested to support activities in 20/21.

For further information on any of the initiatives reported in this newsletter please contact:

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### 2019/20 NWPPA Executive Committee

Colin Sharpe	Independent Chair
Nicholas Woods	Plant Health Australia
Dave Rumbold	Nufarm
Emilia Cieslak	Corteva Agriscience
Byron de Kock	Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd
Joe Murrell	Australian Groundsprayers Association
Jolyon Burnett	Australian Macadamia Society
Katie Aspin	CropLife Australia
Ken Young	Grains RDC
Gordon Cumming	Grains RDC
Dr Harjeet Khanna	Sugar Research Australia
Melanie Gengos	Adama
Peter Broughton	Australian Groundsprayers Association
Peter Cousins	Grain Producers South Australia
Phil Hurst	AAAA
Ross Giles	HVP Plantations
Rowan Rainbow	Grain Producers Australia
Trevor Ranford	Pistacho Growers Association

