



HeadsUp

A COMMENTARY
ON INDUSTRY ISSUES



Confidential

CropLife members only

Key outcomes from March Board meeting

2021-22 strategic assessment

The Board undertook its normal annual assessment of the strategic operating environment and ensured the alignment with CropLife's 2020-25 Strategic Operational Plan and its delivery. This annual assessment is done to ensure the organisation continues to deliver valuable outcomes for members in line with the five-year Strategic Operating period. The Board was very pleased to note that CropLife remains advanced in its strategic planning and operations.

The delivery of the tactical KPIs and objectives in the Strategic Operational Plan, specifically for this year, and the adjustment and development of those for next financial year will be considered and finalised by the Board at its July meeting.

Communications plan

CropLife's Director of Corporate Affairs, Ms Katherine Delbridge, presented an overview of a CropLife draft Strategic Communications Plan 2021-26. The Plan will continue to be refined over the coming months in conjunction with CropLife members and be provided for the Board's formal endorsement at its July meeting. When endorsed, the plan will support and enable the more effective delivery of advocacy goals.

Supply chain resilience

The Board endorsed CropLife's formal participation in relevant components of the Australian Government's Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). The SCRI will see government and industry work together to comprehensively understand supply chains of products critical to Australia's community health, safety and wellbeing and those most vulnerable to disruption. Such products include those of the plant science sector. CropLife's participation in the SCRI will build upon its work with governments and whole-of-industry in its response to COVID-19 to ensure continuity of supply of industry's products to the nation's farmers. Specific focus of CropLife's activity in this space will be the significant increases in shipping/freight costs and serious capacity limitations of sea freight over the last few years, as well as the serious consequences that is having on critical supply chains.

Agricultural chemicals reform

The Board received an update on CropLife's advocacy on the various components of ongoing regulatory reform within the crop protection sector, noting in particular:

- *Independent review of the regulatory framework for agvet chemicals regulatory system* - [CropLife's submission](#) highlighted that the draft Report was, in parts, considerably misaligned with the relevant Issues paper and contained a number of substantial recommendations upon which there was no prior consultation. CropLife's principal concerns lie in the recommendations to introduce additional bureaucratic oversight in the form of a Commissioner and to establish a parallel regulatory system within the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for the introduction of products registered overseas via a licensing arrangement.

- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Board and Other Improvements) Bill 2019* - yet to be considered by the Senate with CropLife's advocacy continuing to focus on removing the APVMA Governance Board provisions from the Bill to allow the supported aspects of the Bill to be passed.

APVMA Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS)

The Board noted CropLife's continued engagement on this issue through the APVMA's CRIS Model and Cost Recovery Working Group. The APVMA's CRIS Roadmap 2022 addresses all aspects of cost recovery, cost models and price models. Work will be undertaken in 'packages' which, where possible, will run simultaneously. It is anticipated the draft CRIS will be available for consultation by end November 2021.

Together with several Working Group participants, CropLife emphasised that the bulk of the work needs to be completed in the Cost Model area, with some of the main areas of concern being:

- Potential and future efficiencies
- Benchmarking with international agencies – is this worthwhile?
- What should be the cost of regulation?

The Board also noted that the Draft Report of the Independent Review of the Agvet Chemicals Regulatory System included some 20 recommendations on the funding of the APVMA, which CropLife had addressed in its submission on this Draft Report.

Integrity of the Australian registration system with regard to first-time active registrants

The Board noted issues relating to the current requirements, or lack thereof, under Australian law regarding the registration of a new active constituent by a first-time registrant and concerns that it was open to abuse. The Board authorised the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Vice President for Crop Protection, to engage with the APVMA and the Agvet Chemical Policy Division of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to ensure integrity of the regulatory system with regard to first-time active registrations and that only legitimate and lawful registrations from first-time active registrants were being approved. Furthermore, to develop in consultation with the CropLife Crop Protection Committee, specific wording for changes to the Agvet Code to ensure the above, if deemed necessary.

Herbicide resistance Modes of Action - Global alignment

An update on progress of CropLife's official herbicide resistance management Mode of Action (MoA) classification system was provided to the Board, including an overview of the February launch of Stage 1 of the project. Stage 2 of the project will require considerable effort in informing and assisting growers during transition. CropLife International's Herbicide Resistance Action Committee's updated MoA comparison app includes the legacy Australian classifications, which provides Australian growers with a freely available, simple method of identifying how MoA classifications will change.

Great Barrier Reef

The Board noted CropLife will be working closely with other stakeholders, including AgForce Queensland, in developing its response to the Queensland Government's Pesticide Risk Baseline Plan's final 2019 Report Card for the Great Barrier Reef health status.

CropLife is concerned at the inclusion of model-based, additive effect toxicity outcomes whose methodologies are in conflict both with the APVMA's published and internationally accepted guidelines, and lack of sound supporting data for the validity of such models. Independent assessment of the newly released methodologies, models and inclusion criteria will be undertaken to inform CropLife's response.

National Working Party on Pesticides

The Board endorsed CropLife's in-kind support of a revised National Working Party on Pesticides.

Regulatory reform agenda – Crop Biotechnology

The Board received an update on CropLife's advocacy on the various components of ongoing regulatory reform within the crop biotechnology sector, noting in particular:

- *2017 Review of the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme* – CropLife submitted to the Department of Health's Consultation Regulation Impact Statement and accompanying Explanatory Paper as part of the modernisation and futureproofing of the National Gene Technology Scheme. CropLife's submission expressed concern regarding non implementation of previous recommendations, as well as proposed further options to future proof the Scheme. The current timeline proposed by the Department of Health provides for implementation of Review recommendations by 2023. CropLife will advocate at all relevant levels drawing attention to the negative impact any delay would have.

- *Review of Food Derived Using New Breeding Techniques* – following delays due to COVID-19, it is anticipated the first consultation phase of this Review will commence mid-2021.

Lifting of GM Moratoriums

The Board was pleased to note the **New South Wales** Government's lifting of the state's GM crop moratorium, which is the result of several years of strong advocacy by CropLife Australia at every step of the process with both government and opposition, as well as farming groups and relevant industry peak bodies. CropLife will monitor the situation and support government, as well as its NSW partners, to counter any action from anti-GM

activists.

The Board also noted that due to the recent lifting of the moratorium in **South Australia** and with that state's election taking place in March 2022, South Australia will remain a key focus.

2022 CropLife International BioAcceptance Plan

The Board formally endorsed the 2022 Crop Biotechnology Acceptance Funding Plan for CropLife Australia and the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia. In 2022, CropLife's workplan includes a strong focus on implementation of the recommendations of what represents the largest review of the Australian biotechnology regulatory framework.

Confidential items

Please note that the Board deals with a range of highly sensitive and confidential matters that are not included in this Heads Up summary. The Chief Executive Officer privately briefs company heads on any such matters that may be of interest or relevant to them.

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