



Confidential

CropLife members only

## Key outcomes July CropLife Board Meeting

### **CropLife Board Appointment**

The Board appointed Mr Brett Ryan, Sumitomo Chemical Australia, as a Director of CropLife Australia to fill a casual vacancy created through the resignation of Mr Tony Brookes. Mr Ryan recently assumed the position of Managing Director, Sumitomo Chemical Australia.

### **2021-22 Strategic Operational Plan**

The Board endorsed the 2021-22 Strategic Operational Plan and associated budget. A copy will be made available on the CropLife website shortly.

In 2021-22 CropLife will work to achieve the following outcomes for CropLife members and the Australian plant science industry:

#### - Unshackle crop protection innovation

- Efficient and effective regulation of crop protection products
- Effective Minor Use and Speciality Crops Program
- Improve operational environment
- Nationally harmonised control of use regime
- Improved practices and competencies
- Recognition and acceptance of risk-based labels
- Progress international regulatory harmonisation for crop protection products

#### - Enable plant breeding innovation

- Improved regulatory system for crop biotechnology
- Progress international regulatory harmonisation of crop biotechnology products
- Increase acceptance of, and access to, crop biotechnology
- Enhance supply chain assurance for crop biotechnology products

- Deliver innovative stewardship and operate responsibly

- Effective industry stewardship that delivers value
- World-leading industry stewardship initiatives
- Recognition of industry stewardship
- Support best practice water quality management and protection

- Professional, effective, valued operations

- Recognised and respected as peak industry organisation
- Member services that add value
- Ensure positive public impressions and acceptance of plant science industry
- Effective communication
- Leveraged value from international CropLife network
- Demonstrated good governance and professional management

#### **Crop Protection Committee renamed**

On the recommendation of CropLife's Crop Protection Committee (CPC), and with stewardship becoming a more substantial and public issue for the industry, the Board endorsed an extension of the remit of the CPC to incorporate stewardship and sustainability. As such, the CPC has been renamed Crop Protection and Stewardship Committee, with amendment of the associated VP title to Vice President Crop Protection and Stewardship, the position currently held by Mr Damien Ryan, Managing Director, Sipcam Pacific Australia. Amendments to the CropLife By-Laws to effect these updated titles were also endorsed.

#### **Committee Structure**

The Board agreed a continuation of the existing committee structure in 2021-22 as the primary membership engagement mechanism, namely:

- Two standing reference and technical committees

- Crop Protection and Stewardship Committee - Chair: Mr Damien Ryan, Sipcam Pacific Australia
- Crop Biotechnology Committee - Chair: Mr Joerg Ellmanns, Bayer CropScience (current nominated delegate is Dr Nina McCormack, Bayer CropScience)

- Dedicated Task Forces

- Registration Cost and Funding Task Force  
Chair: Ms Julie Mason, Chief Financial and Operations Officer, CropLife Australia
- Illegal Product & Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force (currently suspended)  
Chair: Mr Matthew Cossey, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife Australia

- Expert Committees on Resistance Management :

- Expert Committee on Fungicide Resistance | Dr Leanne Forsyth, Syngenta Australia
- Expert Committee on Herbicide Resistance | Mr Jason Sabeeney, Syngenta Australia
- Expert Committee on Insecticide Resistance | Dr Rob Annetts, Corteva Agriscience

### **Strategic Communications Plan 2021-2026**

The Board endorsed the Strategic Communications Plan 2021-2026. The Plan, which was developed in consultation with CropLife members, will support and enable the more effective delivery of advocacy goals. The Plan has also been supported by the Board's decision to allocate an additional one-off investment in resources to initiate and support the new plan. This will be rolled out over the coming 12 months.

### **Human Resources Plan**

The 2021-22 Human Resources Plan was endorsed by the Board, which is structured to best deliver within budget the Strategic Operational Plan. As part of the Plan, the Board has approved additional resourcing to ensure even greater effectiveness and capacity in the primary areas of government affairs and communications in support of our core advocacy focus and mission. Further announcements will be made on this over the coming month.

### **CropLife Australia Constitution**

An amendment to CropLife Australia's Constitution was endorsed for proposing to members of CropLife at the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The proposed amendment provides that a quorum for General Meetings be 40 per cent of Voting Members of the Company, irrespective of which category (Crop Protection or Crop Biotechnology) of Voting Members they represent. Separately, and by way of good governance, the Board endorsed a full external review of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Company for presentation at the 2022 AGM.

A review of the Objectives of the Company, as contained in the CropLife Constitution, and any other associated matters will also be undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure CropLife remains focused on its core mission of maintaining freedom to operate for the regulated plant science industry as per the original intent of the establishment of CropLife.

### **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:

- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Board and Other Improvements) Bill 2019 – The Board agreed to an escalation in the advocacy strategy to secure passage of this Bill without the APVMA Governance Board provision.
- Independent Review of the Agvet Chemicals Regulatory System – The Board received advice that concerns held by CropLife regarding the Review Panel's draft report are equally relevant to the final report published on 2 July 2021. The Board endorsed the intent of a paper in response to the report prepared by CropLife with input from the Crop Protection Committee. This response is aimed at making procedural and structural efficiency to reduce costs of registration, improving timelines for registration of new pesticides and new uses, while enhancing consumer and farmer safety and profitability.

### **New active approval requirements by APVMA**

Following concerns raised by CropLife, the Board noted that the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has drafted a Ministerial Order addressing the requirement for manufacture of agvet chemicals in the respective country of manufacture to be conducted lawfully and with appropriate rights to do so. CropLife, through the Crop Protection Committee, has provided advice for the specific wording of the Order to curb any unintended consequences or overreach of the Order or unnecessary regulation, with a tightly defined and limited definition of 'lawful manufacture' crafted.

### **Regulatory reform agenda – crop biotechnology**

The Board noted CropLife's concerns around the negative impact of any delay in review of the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme have been shared with the Gene Technology Regulator along with concerns that the Federal Department of Health has failed to propose appropriate recommendations for the effective modernisation and future proofing of the Scheme. Separately, and following delays due to COVID-19, it is anticipated the first consultation phase of the Review of Good Derived Using New Breeding Techniques will commence shortly.

### **State GM moratoria**

Following CropLife's strong advocacy campaigns leading to farmers in all mainland Australian states now being able to commercially cultivate approved GM Crops, the Board noted CropLife's focus had shifted to debunking misleading information communicated by anti-GM activists. In respect of South Australia, a close monitor was being maintained on some contention from a few members of the SA Opposition who will likely try and make this an election issue for their local electorates at the SA election on 19 March 2022.

### **Herbicide resistance modes of action – global alignment**

Completion of the transition in Australia from an alphabetical herbicide mode of action classification system to a numerical system was noted by the Board.

### **Resistance Management Strategies**

The Board endorsed CropLife's revised Resistance Management Strategies and associated documents in respect to fungicides, herbicides and insecticides. The strategy documents are available for download from the [CropLife Australia website](#) and will be circulated widely within relevant industry sectors. The Board noted the updated herbicide strategies now formally align with the global MoA classification system.

### **Industry bag collection and recycling**

CropLife developing an industry bag collection and recycling initiative was endorsed by the Board. The initiative endeavours to address the future regulatory burden on member companies of the Packaging Covenant, which will come into full effect in 2025. The Secretariat will continue to develop and refine the plan for a pilot program and will work in partnership with the Australian Seed Federation and Fertilizer Australia. The program will likely be a hybrid program developed based on learnings and experience with delivering both the drumMUSTER and ChemClear® stewardship programs, which are administered by CropLife's wholly owned subsidiary, Agsafe.

### **2021 CropLife Australia events**

Considering ongoing restrictions applying to interstate travel and conduct of events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and conscious of the impact on member companies if staff must self-isolate after travelling, the Board endorsed deferral until March 2022 of CropLife's National Members' Forum. The CropLife Annual General Meeting will proceed on Wednesday 20 October 2021 with provision for attending via virtual means if COVID-19 restrictions prevent physical attendance.

### **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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