



HeadsUp A COMMENTARY ON INDUSTRY ISSUES



Confidential

CropLife members only

AGM, Board appointments and key outcomes from Board Meeting

Annual General Meeting, Executive and Board of Director for 2021-22

CropLife Australia held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21 October 2021 where appointments to the Board were confirmed. Following the AGM the CropLife Board re-elected Syngenta's Country Head and Managing Director ANZ, Mr Paul Luxton, to serve as President of the organisation for the 2021-22 term.

Joining Mr Luxton on the CropLife Executive will be:

Vice President (Crop Protection and Stewardship) – Mr Damien Ryan, Managing Director, Sipcam Pacific Australia
Vice President (Crop Biotechnology) – Mr Joerg Ellmanns, Managing Director, Bayer Crop Science

Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee – Mr Gavin Jackson, Head of Agricultural Solutions Australia and New Zealand, BASF Australia

The CropLife Executive are joined by the following company heads to serve on the CropLife Australia Board of Directors for 2021-22:

Ms Kristina Hermanson, Managing Director ANZ and ASEAN, FMC Australasia Pty Ltd
Mr Darrin Hines, Chief Executive Officer, Adama Australia
Mr Rob Kaan, Managing Director Australia/NZ/Japan/Korea, Corteva Agriscience
Mr Peter O'Keefe, Commercial General Manager, Nufarm Australia Limited
Mr Brett Ryan, Managing Director, Sumitomo Chemical Australia Pty Limited

Chairing CropLife's Standing Reference and Technical Committees will be:

Crop Protection and Stewardship Committee – Mr Damien Ryan, Sipcarn Pacific Australia
Crop Biotechnology Committee – Mr Joerg Ellmanns, Bayer CropScience, who has nominated Dr Nina McCormick to be his delegate as Chair of the Committee.

Mr Darrin Hines, Adama Australia, will continue as Chairman of Agsafe, CropLife Australia's industry stewardship programs organisation.

Key outcomes October Board meeting

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*: Following the Board's endorsement of an escalation in the advocacy strategy to secure passage of this Bill without the APVMA Governance Board provision, a plan has been put in place, which will commence over the coming weeks and is aligned to where the federal election cycle is positioned.
- *Independent Review of the Agvet Chemicals Regulatory System*: Given the identified inefficiencies in the Review Panel's report, the Board noted CropLife's provision to the Minister of a package of reform measures 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. This package will form the basis of CropLife's ongoing work with the Federal Government to ensure Australia has world's best when it comes to agricultural chemical regulatory systems.

New active approval requirements by APVMA

The Board noted that in response to concerns raised by CropLife, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment had released 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. This Order was informed by specific instructions developed by CropLife's Crop Protection and Stewardship Committee aimed at curbing any unintended consequences of overreach and overregulation. A three-month implementation period has been instituted to allow for the APVMA to include the update in their application requirements instrument, with a 28-day compliance period granted to supply the requests for information.

Seed Treatment Stewardship Labelling

In what is another significant testament to CropLife's stewardship efforts, the Board endorsed CropLife, in consultation with its Crop Protection and Stewardship Committee, enabling an exploratory request from the APVMA to modernise label requirements and refer to CropLife's Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy on all relevant registered products in place of the existing lengthy/wordy advice on the label of treated seed products, should the Regulator wish to proceed with such a reform.

APVMA Cost Recovery Impact Statement

The Board noted the original timeline for this CRIS had slipped with the expectation of a final CRIS now being approved before the end of the current financial year. Recent advice from the APVMA highlighted cost reductions and income increases that have allowed the Authority to reach its targeted cash reserves amount of \$9M. A similar result is anticipated into 2021-22 and as such, no increase in fees in the proposed new CRIS.

CropLife's ongoing advocacy will seek to ensure the future cost model facilitates delivery by the APVMA of the most efficiency, in particular ensuring a return on its IT investment

Crop Biotechnology regulatory reform agenda

The Board noted the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact progress of the gene technology regulatory reform process and received an update on progress, as below:

- *Review of the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme:* The Decision Regulatory Impact Statement was published in September and reflects CropLife's feedback (primarily associated with GM Definitions, Notifiable Dealings and Authorisation Pathways (including risk assessment)). It also captures CropLife's statements regarding enhancements to Option B. The endorsed Decision RIS will inform preparation of legislation, which is expected later this year. CropLife will continue to work with federal and state governments on development of an Enhanced Option B and timely implementation of recommendations.
- *RSANZ Review of Food Derived Using New Breeding Techniques:* FSANZ has now finalised its draft proposal and issued a first call for submissions. CropLife's submission will continue to reflect our members' collective concerns about the prospect of pre-market regulation of products developed using new technologies based simply on the technique employed during the development of specific traits and not on the characteristics of the final product.

Separately, the Board received advice on an approach from the domestic grain trade sector regarding establishing a set of voluntary guidelines for information sharing relating to products derived from plant breeding innovation. The Board endorsed ongoing engagement through CropLife's Crop Biotechnology Committee, in determination of this issue.

Expert Committees on Resistance Management

The Board endorsed revised Charters and Standing Orders for its Expert Committees on Fungicides, Insecticides and Herbicides. These changes include the Board now undertaking appointment of Committee Chairs. The Chairs of the respective Committees for 2021-22 are:

Expert Committee on Fungicides: Ms Leanne Forsythe
Expert Committee on Herbicides: Mr Jason Sabeeney
Expert Committee on Insecticides: Ms Melanie Andrews

Industry bag collection and recycling

The Board received an update on CropLife's development, in partnership with the Australian Seed Federation and Fertilizer Australia, of an industry bag collection and recycling initiative as a means of addressing the future regulatory burden on member companies of the Packaging Covenant, which will come into full effect in 2025. There are three main phases to the development of the initiative:

- Phase I:** Pilot to establish collection and transportation process
- Phase II:** Operational model established and limited national roll-out
- Phase III:** Scale-up and national roll-out

Supply Chain

The Chief Executive Officer outlined to the Board the current briefing program that CropLife is undertaking to key ministerial, government

and senior industry stakeholders on supply chain challenges that the industry is facing and the significant work CropLife members are doing to ensure supply of crucial products to the Australian farming sector.

CropLife Technology Security

The Board received a report following an in-depth review of CropLife's cyber and technology security system. While the system is currently well protected, the Board endorsed additional security upgrades considering the dynamic security environment, the changing technologies and the availability of increased defences.

CropLife Constitution

Separately, at the company's Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021, minor technical amendments to the Constitution of the Company were endorsed relevant to the quorum for General Meetings. The Constitution is available [here](#).

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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