



Regulator Statement of Intent 2025

This Regulator Statement of Intent is the response of the Board of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to the priorities of the Australian Government for the APVMA as expressed in the Ministerial Statement of Expectations issued by the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (dated 29 January 2025). The Board also notes the Ministerial Direction (issued 13 July 2023) concerning the finalisation of eight chemical reconsiderations.

The APVMA will work to meet the expectations of the Minister, and the Ministerial Direction of 13 July 2023, in a manner consistent with its statutory responsibilities as described in legislation, including the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992* and the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*.

Our purpose

We regulate agricultural and veterinary chemicals to manage the risks of pests and diseases for the Australian community and to protect Australia's trade and the health and safety of people, animals and the environment.

Our role

The APVMA is the independent statutory authority responsible, in partnership with the states and territories, for the regulation of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines in Australia. The APVMA performs a vital role in ensuring that agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines used in Australia are safe and effective through a range of assessment, advisory, consultation and enforcement functions. The APVMA is also a corporate Commonwealth entity and operates within the relevant frameworks of the Australian Government, including the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, the *Public Service Act 1999* and the *Regulator Performance Resource Management Guide 128*.

Our vision

To be a global leader in agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals regulation for the benefit of Australia.

Our values

The APVMA upholds the Australian Public Service (APS) Values as set out in the Public Service Act 1999, these currently being: 'impartial, committed to service, accountable, respectful, ethical and stewardship'.

Our operating context

The APVMA operates within a highly complex environment with rapidly emerging new technologies; changes in consumer and societal expectations; increasing biosecurity risk, changing attitudes to regulatory compliance; and changing economic and climatic circumstances.

While most of these factors are outside of APVMA's control, they represent risks which the agency must be prepared to proactively respond to. Where possible, the APVMA will do what it can to influence the outcome for the betterment of Australia's agricultural and companion animal industries.



Our strategic approach

The Board will adopt a strategic plan to guide the APVMA over the period 2025 to 2030. The strategic objectives for the APVMA will be:

- Being a trusted, transparent, and fair regulator
- Supporting a contemporary regulatory system
- Building foresight capability
- Striving for operational excellence
- Attracting, developing and retaining talented people

These objectives will drive APVMA priorities, decision making and resource allocation and guide the development of the APVMA Corporate Plan and Portfolio Budget Statement.

The APVMA will revise its purpose statement to emphasise its focus on regulating agvet chemicals for the protection and safety of Australia's people, animals and environment, while ensuring it performs the full suite of its regulatory functions. A revised purpose statement will be included with the new strategic plan which will commence on 1 July 2025.

Ministerial Direction on chemical reconsiderations

The APVMA will continue to implement the Ministerial Direction (issued 13 July 2023) concerning the finalisation of eight long running chemical reconsiderations. The APVMA has completed three of these chemical reconsiderations. The APVMA will seek to make determinations on the remaining chemical reconsiderations in accordance with the relevant legislation.

It is currently estimated all eight of the chemical reconsiderations will be concluded by the end of 2025, noting this is subject to risk assessment outcomes and the information received during public consultation. The APVMA is maintaining, and updating at least annually, a prioritised work program for the assessment of all chemical reconsiderations (nominated, proposed, or active). Where new priorities arise, the APVMA will publish the change to the chemical reconsideration work plan. It will be a strategic priority for the APVMA to build community confidence in the safety and efficacy of older registered agvet chemicals through enhancing the effectiveness of the chemical review and adverse experience reporting programs.

To implement the Ministerial Direction, the APVMA has needed to reallocate resources, which has, and will continue to affect timeframe performance associated with registration-related activities. The APVMA is taking a considered approach to ensure it balances and manages the entirety of its legislative responsibilities in responding to the direction. APVMA will continue to engage with government and stakeholders to ensure there is transparency with respect to those timelines.

The APVMA will continue to provide regular Ministerial updates in accordance with the direction. Ministerial briefings will be provided for each of the chemical reconsiderations as the APVMA approaches key decision points.

Structure, governance and workplace culture

The *Detailed Response to the Final Report on Future Structure and Governance Arrangements for the APVMA* (detailed response) was released on 4 November 2024. The detailed response outlines the government's reform agenda, including reforms already underway and additional policy analysis and research that will strengthen Australia's agvet chemicals regulatory system. The detailed response also outlines the significant work that the APVMA has already undertaken to improve its operations.



The detailed response provides a reform roadmap for Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) and the APVMA. The APVMA is committed to working closely with the department to deliver the outcomes in the detailed response, noting our closely linked but distinct responsibilities. As noted in the detailed response, a well-functioning collaborative relationship between policymakers and regulators ensures that effective, fit-for-purpose reforms can be delivered.

The APVMA will support the government's consideration of policy and regulatory reforms. The APVMA will provide support for the government's analysis of the sustainability of its cost recovery framework. The APVMA will also engage with the budgetary processes of the government to seek additional resources through appropriations to ensure the financial sustainability of the APVMA and/or if additional resources to implement reforms are required.

The APVMA will continue to implement aspects of the detailed response relating to operational reform, including its workplace culture, governance arrangements, and strengthening its processes. Much has already been achieved, and work to deliver further reforms will continue within available resources.

The Board and the Chief Executive Officer will be accountable for the operational performance and culture of the APVMA. The APVMA has established strong, regular reporting and information sharing practices and will ensure that the Minister is kept informed of its activities and is notified as soon as practicable of significant decisions or issues affecting the APVMA.

Independence, transparency, and accountability

The APVMA recognises that it operates as part of the Australian Government as an independent regulator performing a range of assessment, advisory, consultation, investigatory and enforcement functions while being accountable to the Parliament, and ultimately to the public. As noted in the detailed response, regulatory independence is important to ensure that regulatory decisions are objective, impartial and consistent. In performing its functions, the APVMA will communicate regularly with the public on its key decisions and regulatory and enforcement outcomes.

The APVMA will comply with the requirements of the whole-of-government resource management framework under the *Public Governance, Performance, and Accountability Act 2013*. This will include ensuring that the APVMA is efficient in its operations and demonstrates value for money for the functions it performs.

The APVMA is committed to maintaining robust, effective and collaborative working relationships with other Commonwealth, state and territory agencies, as well as the APVMA's counterpart regulators in overseas jurisdictions, to ensure the proper functioning of Australia's regulatory framework.

The APVMA will continue to engage in key communities of practice, participate in regulatory education activities and collaborate with relevant Australian Government working groups. It will use these opportunities to share knowledge, discuss improvement practices and regulatory best practices as demonstrated by Australian and international peers.

Engagement

The APVMA will regularly provide the Minister with updates on progress of its initiatives to engage with stakeholders, while working with the department to ensure the APVMA gains the advice and support it may need to implement those initiatives.



Australian Government

**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

The Board will continue to meet the legislated obligation to provide Board minutes to the Secretary of the department.

The Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer will continue to meet with the Minister no less than twice a year. The Chief Executive Officer and senior executives of the agencies will routinely engage with officers of the department.

The Minister's Statement of Expectations and this Statement of Intent will be made available on the agriculture.gov.au website and the APVMA website. It will also be included in future APVMA corporate plans and annual reports.

21 February 2025