



Animal Health Alliance  
SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Animal Health Alliance (Australia) Ltd  
ABN: 76 116 948 344  
Address: Level 2 AMP Building  
1 Hobart Place  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Locked Bag 916  
Phone: 02 6257 9022  
Fax: 02 6257 9055  
[www.animalhealthalliance.org.au](http://www.animalhealthalliance.org.au)



CropLife Australia Limited  
ABN: 29 008 579 048  
Address: Level 2 AMP Building  
1 Hobart Place  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Locked Bag 916  
Phone: 02 6230 6399  
Fax: 02 6230 6355  
[www.croplifeaustralia.org.au](http://www.croplifeaustralia.org.au)

30 January 2006

The Secretary  
Inquiry into Waste Generation & Resource Efficiency  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2  
Collins Street  
**EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8003**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Animal Health (Alliance) Australia Ltd (the national body for the manufacturers and registrants of animal health products – [www.animalhealthalliance.org.au](http://www.animalhealthalliance.org.au)) and CropLife Australia Limited (the national body for the plant science industry – [www.croplifeaustralia.org.au](http://www.croplifeaustralia.org.au)) are pleased to provide the following insight into our industries' waste reduction initiatives. We commend the Commission for conducting the public inquiry into industry waste and its management in Australia. Our industry is very proud of the stewardship initiatives we have in place, particularly for waste reduction management, and it is our pleasure to explain them here to you.

The agvet chemical industry in Australia has been proactive for many years in taking the lead in developing practical and effective schemes to reduce and manage wastes of concern in its industry. Recognising this, Agsafe ([www.agsafe.com.au](http://www.agsafe.com.au)), an independent subsidiary of CropLife Australia, was established to implement and deliver three industry stewardship programs. Two of these programs (**drumMUSTER** – [www.drummuster.com.au](http://www.drummuster.com.au) and ChemClear® – [www.chemclear.com.au](http://www.chemclear.com.au)) directly relate to recycling and managing our industry waste.

To facilitate these waste reduction programs, in May 1998 the agvet chemical industry entered into an agreement with Federal Government and the agricultural industry and established the Industry Waste Reduction Scheme (IWRS). The IWRS outlines a detailed strategy to reduce agricultural chemical packaging waste, both at source and through the provision of a defined route for safe recycling of empty unwanted chemical containers.

### **drumMUSTER**

**drumMUSTER**, the national program for the collection and recycling of empty, cleaned, non-returnable farm chemical containers, was launched in February 1999.

The **drumMUSTER** program is funded through an ACCC approved, four cents per litre (or kilogram) levy, that farmers and chemical users pay when purchasing applicable farm chemical products in non-returnable chemical containers over one litre or kilogram in content. These levy funds are used to pay for infrastructure, inspection, collection notification, processing, transport, program promotion, and administration. Some funds are reserved for special R & D projects to remove barriers to program implementation.

The program is overseen by the Industry Waste Reduction Advisory Committee (IWRAC), which comprises representatives of the National Farmers' Federation, Avcare Limited (now Animal Health Alliance (Australia) Ltd and CropLife Australia Limited), the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors' Association, the Australian Local Government Association and the General Manager of Agsafe Limited.

Since its launch in 1999, **drumMUSTER** has successfully rolled out essential collection infrastructure around Australia. The program has achieved its performance targets, recycling well over 1 million clean and inspected drums annually and setting a global standard for product stewardship.

**drumMUSTER** has demonstrated steady growth in drum return rates with the program currently collecting in the order of 35% of the eligible containers sold. While **drumMUSTER** has laid the foundations for success, **drumMUSTER** partners are committed to further improving the program's performance through delivering an improved quality service and through encouraging more farmers and chemical users to recycle more drums.

Since the program began in 1999, **drumMUSTER** has achieved some significant milestones, including:

- Signing up more than 460 councils and / or collection agencies to conduct collections;
- Establishing more the 680 collection sites around Australia – with more to come;
- Holding more than 8,800 collections;
- Training more than 2,900 inspectors; and
- Collecting more than 7.2 million drums and redirecting over 10,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and the environment to the recycling stream

### ChemClear®

ChemClear® is the national program for the collection of unwanted registered agricultural and veterinary chemical products. The ACCC has approved the integration of the ChemClear® and **drumMUSTER** programs to allow the administration of both programs by the IWRAC.

The ChemClear® program is funded by the agchem and agricultural industries and has the objective to minimise the accumulation of unwanted rural chemicals on farms which may create potential risks to the environment, public health and trade. The program features a web based booking system and free call number.

The objectives of the ChemClear® program are to:

- A. minimise the generation of unwanted rural chemicals;
- B. minimise the accumulation of unwanted rural chemicals and any associated risks of impact to the environment, public health and trade;
- C. provide for a collection and disposal service for rural chemicals; and
- D. provide a management system for unwanted registered rural chemicals which is:
  - a. effective in achieving a high rate of participation of waste holders;
  - b. accessible by all users who may hold those chemicals; and
  - c. provided at lowest possible cost

ChemClear® encourages any holder of unwanted rural chemicals to register their unwanted products on its booking line. The chemical holder may visit the booking site link on the ChemClear® website or call 1800 008 182 from any region of Australia. The chemical holder must ensure that prior to contacting the booking line, they have a completed inventory of unwanted products and all identifying features of the chemical for disposal such as manufacturer name, size of container and quantity remaining in the container.

In conclusion, Agsafe stewardship programs assist businesses by, among other things, providing post consumer waste collection and disposal services to minimise OH&S risk, complying with food safety standards through QA programs and meeting regulatory requirements.

Above and beyond the above three programs, our member companies have, through their R&D programs:

- developed more concentrated formulations;
- developed new chemical actives at lower rates of application;
- converted from liquid to granular formulations, i.e. less plastic containers; and
- increased the use of returnable refillable containers,

all of which have contributed to reduced waste.

We are available at any time to elaborate on any of the initiatives we have detailed here.

Regards



Dr Peter Holdsworth  
Chief Executive Officer  
Animal Health Alliance (Australia) Ltd



Ms Paula Matthewson  
Chief Executive Officer  
CropLife Australia Limited