

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates May 2008

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** APVMA 01

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** ANAO Recommendation Implementation

**Hansard Page:** 25 (26/05/08)

**Senator Adams asked:**

**Senator ADAMS**—Which recommendations do you still have to implement from the ANAO's report?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—Several of the activities with regard to the ANAO report are still ongoing. We have regular progress reports on the web with regard to our progress on those, but I can certainly let you have a copy of our progress on those recommendations on notice.

**Senator ADAMS**—I would certainly appreciate that.

**Answer:**

The progress report is **attached**.

The progress report is also published to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website at

[http://www.apvma.gov.au/about\\_us/anao\\_report.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/about_us/anao_report.shtml)

**[APVMA 01 attachment]**

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** APVMA 02

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** Levy of Agvet Sales

**Hansard Page:** 26 (26/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—Yes. The levy is actually set in our regulations, so that is a precise amount that is applied.

**Senator NASH**—What amount is that?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—I would have to take that on notice. I cannot recall what the exact amount is now in per cent term; I am sorry.

**Senator NASH**—Perhaps you could do that.

**Answer:**

There are currently 8,941 leviable Agvet products.

The levy is calculated based on the sales/disposals declared on the Request for Declaration of Leviable Values.

Registrants need to declare the dollar value of sales/disposals (the leviable value) made for each product registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for the previous financial year. This information is used to calculate the levy payable.

The APVMA forwards a Request for Declaration of Leviable Values to either the finance contact or company contact recorded on the APVMA's database.

The declaration is issued in July each year requesting sales/disposals for the previous financial year.

For sales made from 1 July 2006 the levy calculation is based on a tiered levy rate structure as follows:

- 0.8% levy rate up to \$1,000,000 product sales;
- 0.45% levy rate for additional sales from \$1,000,000.01 to \$5,000,000;
- 0.30% for additional sales over \$5,000,000.

To explain further:

- For products with sales of greater than \$1 million but less than \$5 million, the first \$1 million of sales would be charged at 0.8% and additional sales above this threshold would be charged at 0.45%;
- For products with sales above \$5 million, the first \$1 million would be charged at 0.8%, a levy rate of 0.45% applies to the next \$4 million and additional sales above \$5 million are charged at 0.30%.

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There are no caps or minimum sales thresholds.

The APVMA will generally waive the whole of the liability to pay a levy in relation to the disposals of a registered product where the total amount of levy payable on that product is less than \$40 for sales made in the 2005-06 financial year or a later financial year.

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**Question:** APVMA 03

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** Agvet Chemicals that are Levied by APVMA

**Hansard Page:** 26 (26/05/08)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—So it is exactly the same. This one I do not mind if you take on notice: could we have a list of all the Agvet chemicals that are levied by APVMA?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—Yes.

**Answer:**

A list of leviable Agvet products is attached.

**[APVMA 03 attachment]**

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**Question:** APVMA 04

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** Good Rain

**Hansard Page:** 26 (26/05/08)

**Senator NASH asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Would it be possible—and I am happy for you to take this on notice—to supply to the committee which of your industry participants suggested to you that we had had good rain in the last nine months? It would just be interesting to see where, how and why they had determined that that was a factor.

**Answer:**

When asked in February 2008, what the predicted 2007/08 sales would be compared to 2006/07 sales, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority received twenty-eight responses, twenty one companies predicted increased sales, five predicted decreased sales and two predicted no change to sales.

Of the twenty-one companies that predicted increased sales, six suggested that the increase in predicted sales was influenced by improved rainfall or drought recovery. All sales information is deemed commercial in confidence, however we can advise that three of the companies were in the agriculture sector and three in the veterinary medicines sector and all have quite an extensive range of products and sales volume.

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**Question:** APVMA 05

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** Genetically Engineered Crops

**Hansard Page:** 35-36 (26/05/08)

**Senator Siewert asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Can I just ask something on that. If your process is a percentage levy of the pesticides used then surely by that levy process you would know how much pesticide is being used across the country.

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—It is a dollar value, so we do not know. Certainly you can say that these particular pesticides, on a dollar value, are the highest value pesticide, but it is not on quantity in terms of kilograms per hectare. We cannot make an assessment. It gives you an idea, but you cannot make a direct assessment of quantity because of the cost.

**Senator SIEWERT**—Is it possible for you to provide that information so that we can have an idea about that?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—On the costings that we publish regularly—the general breakdown on the levies for particular different product types?

**Senator SIEWERT**—Can you flag the specific ones that have been applied for GE crops?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—We can give some indication of that, yes.

**Answer:**

There are only four products registered for use specifically on genetically modified crops. These are P54112 Roundup Ready Herbicide by Monsanto, P53595 Liberty Herbicide, P60249 Liberty 150 Herbicide and P61965 Liberty 200 Herbicide. Each of these products may also be used on conventional crops.

All products fall within Herbicides on the schedule of agricultural chemical product sales for 2006-07 available on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website at [http://www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/0806downloads/Pg19\\_AgSales.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/0806downloads/Pg19_AgSales.pdf)

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** APVMA 06

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** Monitoring in Tasmanian Catchments

**Hansard Page:** 37 (26/05/08)

**Senator Milne asked:**

**Senator MILNE**—So can you provide details of the monitoring in Tasmanian catchments for the last 12 months?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—We certainly have access to that information. It is largely the department that publishes that on its website. But it also gives us the results to feed into our processes.

**Senator MILNE**—I would like it if you could make that available, because I would be very surprised if the Tasmanian government published all that information on any website. But I would be keen to see what monitoring has gone on in Tasmania.

**Answer:**

A State-based program to monitor Tasmanian water catchments for a range of herbicides and other pesticides was launched by the State Minister for Primary Industries and Water on 19 January 2005. The **attached** document provides summary information about this program and a summary of results provided to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) following its atrazine forum in June 2007.

Full details of the results of all monitoring can be found on the Tasmanian Primary Industries and Water Department of (DPIW) website [www.dpiw.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au) under the 'Water' heading (then click on 'Pesticide Monitoring in Water Catchments' under 'Hot Topics'). The most recent published measurements were made by the Tasmanian DPIW on 16 April 2008.

**[APVMA 06 attachment]**

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**Question:** APVMA 07

**Division/Agency:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**Topic:** Pilot Study Tasmanian Catchments

**Hansard Page:** 39 (26/05/08)

**Senator Milne asked:**

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—I do understand that Tasmania has conducted a pilot study on how the state might more usefully collect such information.

**Senator MILNE**—And where is that pilot study?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—That is being conducted by the Department of Primary Industries and Water in Tasmania.

**Senator MILNE**—And will that be made public, do you know?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—I cannot answer for that department.

**Senator MILNE**—Have you received that pilot study?

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—We are aware of it and we receive regular updates.

**Senator MILNE**—Could I ask for a copy of it through you, please. As soon as it is concluded, I would very much like to see a copy of that pilot project being conducted in Tasmania.

**Dr Bennet-Jenkins**—Yes.

**Senator MILNE**—Thank you.

**Answer:**

Details about the ‘Tasmanian River Catchment Water Quality Initiative’ may be found at: <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/CART-6R7368?open>

A funding agreement between the Australian and Tasmanian Governments for this project was finalised on 15 May 2006. This project runs from May 2006 until the end of April 2008. The overall objective of the water quality research program is to contribute to the assessment of chemical use on water quality in Tasmania’s river catchments; it builds on existing monitoring programs to provide the community and industry with the information.

The objectives of the initiative are to: better understand the fate of pesticides in the Tasmanian environment; develop and utilise methodology for identifying the nature and extent of pesticide usage in Tasmanian river catchments; tailor the CSIRO’s Pesticide Impact Rating Index (PIRI) to Tasmanian conditions and validate its use in predicting the relative risk of off-site pesticide migration in the Tasmanian environment; *and* develop and refine methodology for assessing the risk of contamination of waterways from the use of pesticides in agricultural and forestry activities in Tasmanian river catchments.



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The Tasmanian department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) has advised the APVMA that the report is likely to be ready for publication in August 2008. It will be posted on DPIW's website ([www.dpiw.gov.au](http://www.dpiw.gov.au)).