

NO.



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

Report

on

THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF PESTICIDES IN
NEW SOUTH WALES

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INQUIRY'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Use and Management of Pesticides in New South Wales

(Reference received 12 November 1998)

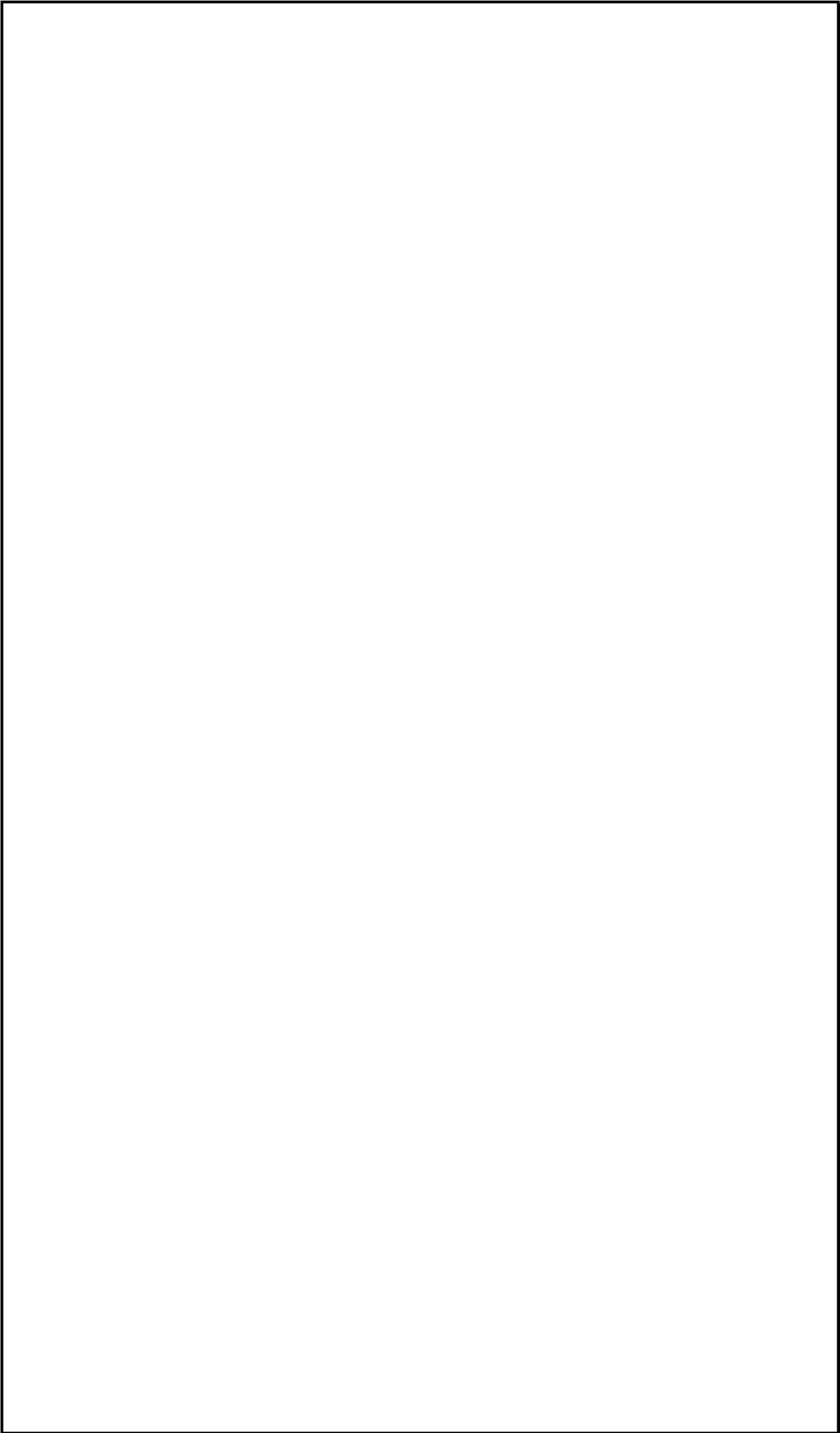
That in light of:

- its inquiry into the role of government in facilitating the international competitiveness of agriculture in New South Wales, and
- the widespread community consultation that was conducted in 1997 by the NSW Environment Protection Authority in conjunction with the Government's *Discussion Paper on Improving Pesticide Management in NSW*;

the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on issues associated with all pesticide use in NSW and options for future policy and/or programs related to the management of pesticides, including all agricultural chemicals, having particular regard to:

- the sustainability of agricultural activities which currently rely on intensive pesticide use;
- the social, health, environmental and trade interests of the agricultural and wider community, including the need for avoiding and reducing the risks associated with pesticide use;
- the role of pesticide users, local government, State agencies and other stakeholders (including environment and other community groups) in the resolution of local conflicts in relation to pesticide use; and
- any opportunities for industry to address the issues through research and development (on aspects such as less pesticide-dependent plant varieties, improved pesticide products and application techniques) and the development and implementation of best management practices for pesticide use.

For the purposes of the inquiry, the Minister for the Environment has advised that the term pesticides includes herbicides, bactericides, pest baits, fungicides, insecticides, pest lures, rodenticides and pest repellents.



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

On 12 November 1998 correspondence was received from the then Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Pam Allan, MP, issuing the Standing Committee on State Development with terms of reference to inquire into and report upon the use and management of pesticides in New South Wales.

In referring the matter to the Standing Committee, the Minister recognised the complex nature of pesticide legislation and policy and its relative importance and sensitivity to the community. The Minister foresaw the benefits from the inter-relationship of this inquiry with the Standing Committee's ongoing inquiry into the international competitiveness of agriculture in New South Wales. These factors combined were most appropriately considered through a Standing Committee mechanism that provided opportunities for industry, interest groups, government and community across New South Wales and interstate to present their views.

The Standing Committee approached this inquiry with the understanding that the use and management of pesticides involved a delicate balance of public health, environmental and economic concerns. The Standing Committee had the benefit of applying the considerable work undertaken since 1997 by the NSW Environment Protection Authority to canvass public perception of possible amendments to the *Pesticides Act 1978*. With this information as a base, the Standing Committee sought to encompass a range of regulatory and policy measures available to manage pesticides, including environmental planning instruments, provisions of the *Pesticide Act 1978*, and education and training.

The report comprises two volumes, the first presents the Standing Committee's views, considerations and recommendations. The second volume contains the amended transcripts emanating from the Standing Committee's five public hearings. Both volumes have been published in the pursuit of disseminating community perspectives on the important issue of pesticides. In preparing this report I am satisfied that it addresses the stated terms of reference.

The Standing Committee's findings are addressed in three main sections within volume one of the report. The first section (Chapter two), discusses the use of pesticides in urban and rural landscapes. The section reflects the

overwhelming view of industry and a number of government organisations who indicated that the social, economic and environmental benefits of effectively managed pesticide use outweighed the risks. The agricultural industry, the largest user of pesticides, reported the influence of market demand for a reliable supply of low priced, high quality produce dictated their need for pesticide use. The Standing Committee received analytical evidence of the occurrence of pesticides in persons, livestock and water sources at sites extending up to 3.6 kilometres or more from the possible source. In many instances inadequate research has been undertaken to ascertain the consequences of pesticide occurrences.

The second section (Chapter three and Chapter four) considers the instruments available for managing the use of pesticides in the community. The Standing Committee received a strong community message that measures need to be implemented to minimise the occurrence of pesticide drift and contamination of non target species or areas such as neighbouring property, watercourses and livestock. Economic losses incurred by livestock producers in domestic and overseas markets from endosulfan residues in cattle demonstrated the need to improve the way pesticides are managed. The report contains a number of legislative and policy approaches that seek to achieve this end.

From a regulatory perspective, the Standing Committee reviewed the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority's options for amendment of *the Pesticides Act 1978* and made a number of recommendations in that regard. The Standing Committee supports the amendment of s.37 of the *Pesticides Act 1978*, removing the requirement that an applicator be proven to wilfully cause risk of injury or damage by a pesticide. The Committee received views from a broad cross section of the community advocating a greater sharing of responsibility and liability for the application of pesticides than is currently outlined under legislation. The Standing Committee supports the inclusion of provisions enabling clear delineation between the responsibility of the land owner and contracted professional to use pesticides. Penalties for breach of responsibility under the Act are to be weighted accordingly.

Part of the report is devoted to the role of planning in managing pesticide drift and issues raised about incompatible land uses and the application of buffer zones. As a case study example of planning issues, the Standing Committee reviewed concerns raised by sections of the Dubbo community regarding a proposed cotton development in the area. The introduction of regional agricultural plans as regional environmental planning instruments

is recommended as an innovative and flexible approach for progressing towards a resolution of these matters.

The third section (Chapter five) considers alternatives to the use of pesticides, focussing on the notion of the precautionary principle, organic farming and notes a recent CSIRO research program aiming to control termites and locusts by fungus.

The Standing Committee's deliberations were assisted by being able to source evidence received not only from this inquiry but also from its concurrent investigations for the inquiry into the international competitiveness of agriculture in New South Wales.

In my capacity as Chairman, and on behalf of the members of the Standing Committee on State Development, I would like to thank the staff of the Committee's secretariat who worked on the inquiry. Appreciation is extended to the previous Director, Ms Anna McNicol, Director/Senior Project Officer, Mr Steven Carr, Senior Project Officer, Mr Robert Stefanic, and the Committee Officer, Ms Annie Marshall for their assistance. Particular mention should be given to efforts undertaken during the final stages of the inquiry where public hearings and report preparation was conducted to a confined time schedule.

I would also like to thank all those individuals and organisations who directed their time, interest and expertise to preparing submissions or appearing as witnesses before the Standing Committee during this inquiry.

Hon. Tony Kelly, MLC
Chairman

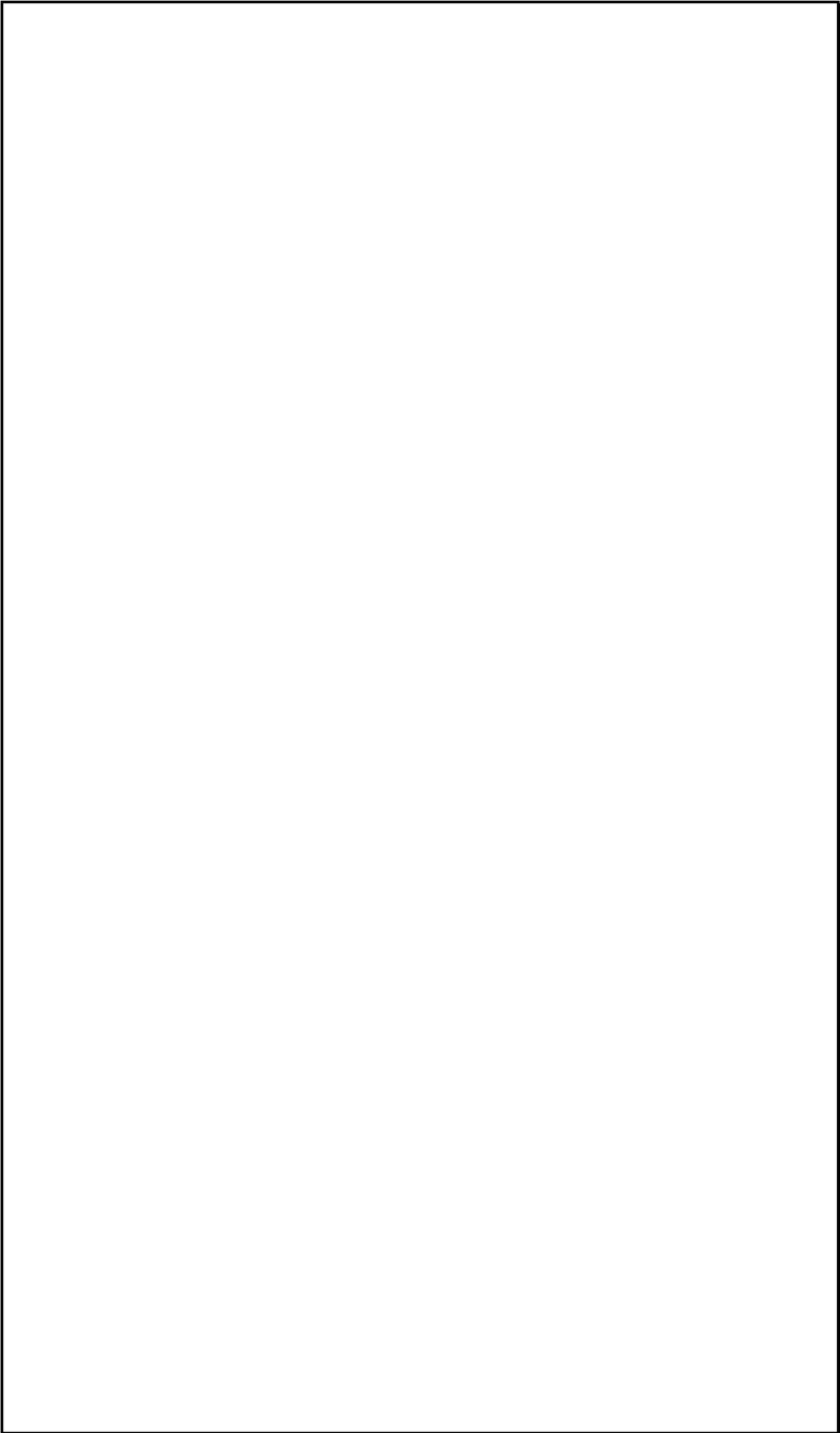
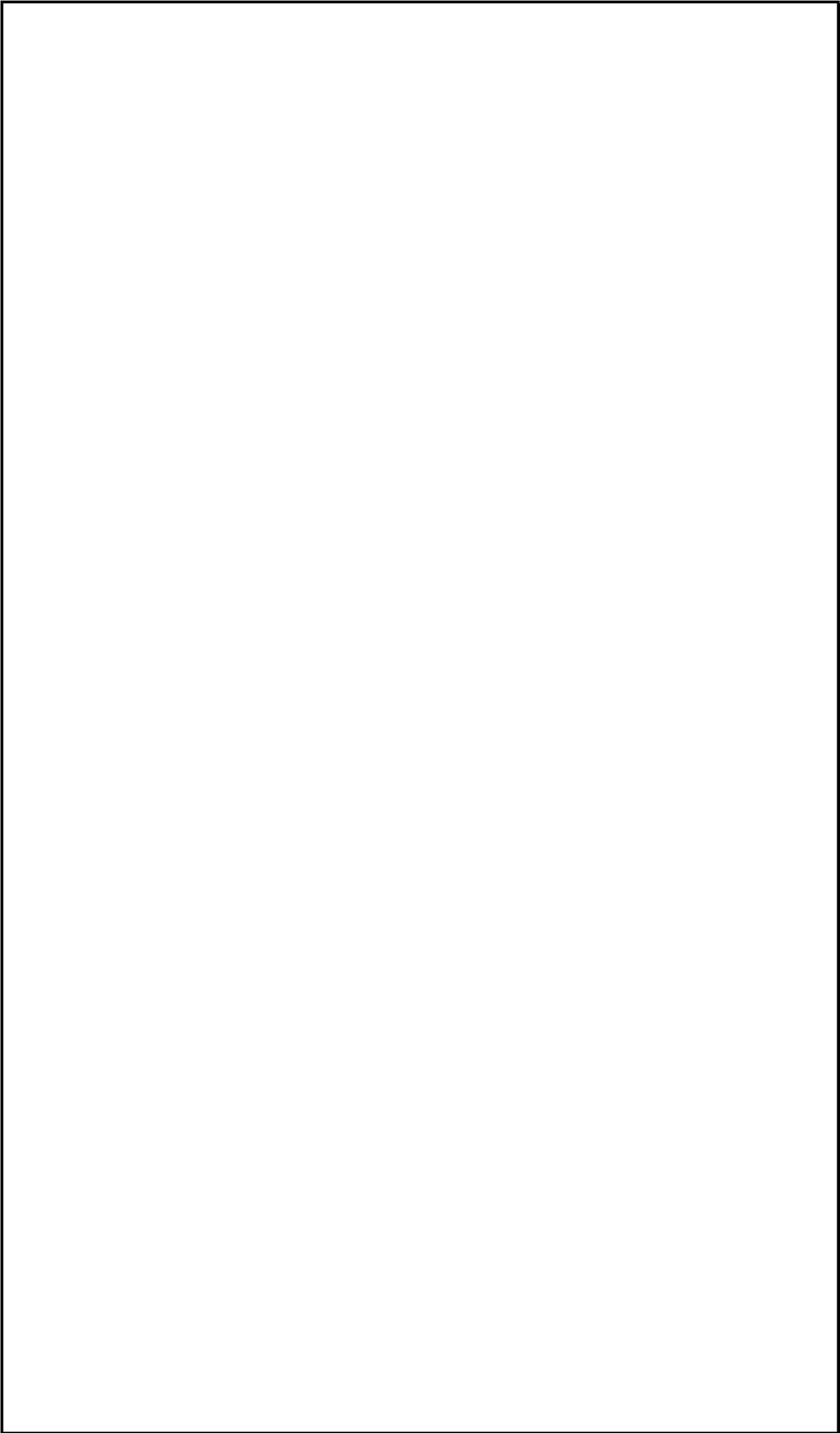


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MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Hon Tony Kelly, MLC Chairman
Australian Labor Party

The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti, RFD MLC Deputy Chairman
Liberal Party

The Hon Ian Cohen, MLC
The Greens

The Hon John Johnson, MLC
Australian Labor Party

The Hon Ian M Macdonald, MLC
Australian Labor Party

SECRETARIAT TO COMMITTEE

Ms Anna McNicol Director
(Until 16 July 1999)

Mr Steven Carr Director/Senior Project Officer

Mr Robert Stefanic Senior Project Officer
(For the period 2 August 1999 – 24 September 1999)

Mr Stephen Fenn Research Assistant

Ms Annie Marshall Committee Officer

ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

In June 1988, the Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament resolved to establish two Standing Committees—the Standing Committee on Social Issues and the Standing Committee on State Development. After the 1995 election a third Committee, the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, was established. At that time the Standing Committee on Privilege and Ethics was reconstituted by resolution.

The functions of the State Development Committee, as set out in the Resolutions of the Legislative Council, are to inquire into, consider and report to the Council on:¹

options for future policy directions and emerging issues to ensure that opportunities for sound growth and wise development for the benefit of the people in all areas of New South Wales are pursued;

- any proposal, matter or thing concerned with economics and finances, resources and energy, transportation, tourism, public administration, local government, the Olympics, primary industry, industrial and technological developments and environmental issues in New South Wales; and
- any proposal, matter or thing concerned with the problems or disadvantages uniquely or predominantly experienced in country areas, including the viability of cities and towns in those areas.

¹ Legislative Council, 1st Session, 52nd Parliament, Committees, Resolutions, Office Holders and Ministerial Representation, (Draft), p 6

OPERATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Matters for inquiry may be referred to the Standing Committee by a Minister of the Crown or by resolution of the Legislative Council. Additionally the Standing Committee may inquire into and report to the House on any annual report or petition that has been tabled in the Legislative Council that is relevant to the functions of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee may publish papers and evidence taken in public, as it considers appropriate. In that connection the Standing Committee may prepare and distribute discussion papers as aids to its inquiries.

The Legislative Council resolution enables the Standing Committee to:

- summons witnesses;
- make inspections;
- call upon the services of government organisations and their staff with the consent of the appropriate Minister;
- accept written submissions concerning inquiries from any person or organisation;
- conduct public hearings; and/or
- meet and make joint reports with other federal and state parliamentary committees.

Reports must be tabled in the Legislative Council within ten days of adoption by the Standing Committee. Each report is debated in the House. The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council is required to respond within six months to any recommendations for Government action that have been set out in Standing Committee reports.

PUBLICATIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Discussion Paper 1 May 1989

Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: A Survey

Report 1 August 1989

Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: Supply of Goods and Services

Report 2 October 1989

Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: Local Government Tendering & Contracting

Discussion Paper 2 November 1989

Coastal Development in New South Wales: Public Concerns & Government Processes

Discussion Paper 3 June 1990

Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: Capital Works Tendering & Contracting: Management Options

Report 3 April 1991

Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: Capital Works Tendering & Contracting. Volume A

Report 4 September 1991

Coastal Planning & Management in New South Wales: A Framework for the Future. Volume 1

Supplement to 4 September 1991

An Alternative Dispute Resolution Primer

- Report 5 December 1991
Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: Capital Works Tendering & Contracting. Volume B
- Report 6 December 1991
Payroll Tax Concessions for Country Industries. Volume I
- Report 7 June 1992
Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: Supply of Goods and Services: Follow Up Report
- Report 8 October 1992
Coastal Planning & Management in New South Wales: The Process for the Future. Volume II
- Report 9 April 1993
Public Sector Tendering & Contracting in New South Wales: Local Government Tendering & Contracting: Follow Up Report
- Discussion Paper 4 August 1993
Regional Business Development in New South Wales: Trends, Policies and Issues.
- Report 10 May 1994
Regional Business Development in New South Wales: Achieving Sustainable Growth: Principles for Setting Policy. Volume I
- Report 11 November 1994
Regional Business Development in New South Wales: Achieving Sustainable Growth: Initiatives for Setting Policy. Volume II
- Report 12 August 1996
Rationales for Closing the Veterinary Laboratories At Armidale and Wagga Wagga and the Rydalmere Biological and Chemical Research Institute

- Report 13 October 1996
Factors Influencing the Relocation of Regional Headquarters of Australian and Overseas Corporations to New South Wales
- Report 14 April 1997
Interim Report on the Fisheries Management Amendment (Advisory Bodies) Act 1996
- Report 15 April 1997
Waste Minimisation and Management
- Report 16 July 1997
The Fisheries Management Amendment (Advisory Bodies) Act 1996
- Discussion Paper 5 October 1997
Future Employment and Business Opportunities in the Hunter Region
- Report 17 November 1997
Fisheries Management and Resource Allocation in New South Wales
- Report 18 March 1998
Operations of the Sydney Market Authority (Dissolution) Bill from Commencement until 31 December 1997
- Discussion Paper 6 May 1998
International Competitiveness of Agriculture in New South Wales
- Report 19 July 1998
Future Employment and Business Opportunities in the Hunter Region; and The Downsizing of the Rack Rite Investment Proposal
- Report 20 September 1998
Interim Report on the Provision and Operation of Rural and Regional Air Services in New South Wales

GLOSSARY

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ANZECC	Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
Avcare	National Association for Crop Protection and Animal Health
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DLWC	NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation
NRA	National Registration Authority
NSW EPA	Environment Protection Authority of New South Wales

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation 1..... page 6

The Standing Committee recommends that a freestanding definition of “pesticides” be included in the *Pesticides Act 1978*.

Recommendation 2..... page 17

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Government establish Regional Inter-Agency Committees on Pesticides. The Regional Inter-Agency Committees on Pesticides would have a purview to:

- Identify regionally specific impacts of pesticides on public health, environment and property;
- Transfer information and coordinate resources in relation to pesticides and the impact of pesticides;
- Conduct research and advisory programs;
- Provide advice to the proposed Statutory Advisory Committee where the Regional Inter-Agency Committees on Pesticides considers it appropriate (See discussion on a Statutory Advisory Committee at Recommendation 42); and
- Source information from other government agencies.

Recommendation 3..... page 20

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Health expand its research into the impacts of pesticide exposure on human health.

Recommendation 4.....page 34

The Standing Committee recommends that adequate additional financial resources be provided to the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to enable the expeditious development of Regional Agricultural Plans. In formulating these plans, the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning should consult with the community and, move to incorporate provisions for:

- A minimum lot size that can result from a subdivision of prime agricultural land, unless development consent provides otherwise;
- Identification of prime agricultural land with a view to maintaining land use strictly for agricultural purposes;
- Identification of areas incompatible with pesticide use, eg. schools, organic farms;
- Inclusion of accredited environmental management systems and best management practices for agricultural operations, particularly in relation to pesticide application. Such mechanisms should include:
 - Site specific buffer zone measures; and
 - Calibrated weather and wind monitoring equipment operated at the time of professional and commercial pesticide application.

Recommendation 5.....page 39

The Standing Committee recommends that no amendment be made to the *Pesticides Act 1978* delegating regulatory authority to industry.

Recommendation 6.....page 42

The Standing Committee recommends that education and training in the use and management of pesticides be compulsory for applicators who conduct application activities for professional purposes and that other commercial applicators undertake education and training regimes that correspond with user needs and toxicity of chemicals applied. The mechanisms to implement an education and training program may include pamphlets, video instruction or course attendance where appropriate and be funded by a levy on agricultural chemical sales.

Recommendation 7.....page 52

The Standing Committee recommends that the outmoded provisions of the *Pesticides Act 1978* be repealed including those concerning registration and approval of pesticides.

Recommendation 8.....page 52

The Standing Committee recommends that wherever the term “Registrar of Pesticides” appears in the Act should be replaced with references to the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Recommendation 9.....page 56

The Standing Committee will, as part of its review process (refer to Recommendation No.45), consider the issues of growers from non-English speaking backgrounds or with low literacy levels, developments in compliance with pesticide labelling by these growers and the progress of the Premier’s Taskforce.

Recommendation 10.....page 56

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to create an offence for use of a pesticide contrary to the directions on a pesticide label or permit.

Recommendation 11.....page 56

The Standing Committee recommends that pesticide labels provide clear instructions for use, and that until a consistent standard for labels is implemented, purchasers of pesticide products with non-compliant labels should be provided with material safety data in the form of durable sheets or other relevant media.

Recommendation 12.....page 57

The Standing Committee recommends that lower concentrations or lower usage rates of pesticides be permitted by way of a “Pesticide Order” under the *Pesticides Act 1978* where the usage is not inconsistent with label directions and is approved by the National Registration Authority.

Recommendation 13..... page 57

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority commence consultation with the National Registration Authority and Avcare to address the issue of minor use, intellectual property rights and impediments to the registration process. The consultation should be conducted with a view to increasing the accessibility of pesticides suitable for minor use.

Recommendation 14..... page 58

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to create an offence to use or dispose of a pesticide so as to cause harm or damage to people or property. (See Recommendations 20 and 22 for discussion of “harm”)

Recommendation 15..... page 58

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority cooperate with industry to develop initiatives that encourage responsible container disposal. As part of its review (Recommendation 45), the Standing Committee will consider the Authority’s progress in this area.

Recommendation 16..... page 58

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to create an offence for inappropriate disposal of a pesticide container.

Recommendation 17..... page 59

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to create an offence for the intentional or negligent pesticide use or disposal resulting in harm to people or property. (See Recommendations 20 and 22 for discussion of “harm”)

Recommendation 18..... page 59

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority, investigate methods to institute an unwanted chemical container disposal system in urban and rural environments.

Recommendation 19.....page 64

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to create an offence for the intentional or negligent pesticide use or disposal that threatens or harms the environment.

Recommendation 20.....page 64

The Standing Committee recommends that clear and unambiguous definitions be provided for the words “harm” and “environment” in the *Pesticides Act 1978*.

Recommendation 21.....page 64

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* reflect the greater sensitivity of children to pesticide exposure within the definition of harm.

Recommendation 22.....page 64

The Standing Committee recommends that in defining the concepts of “harm” and “harm to the environment”, the NSW Environment Protection Authority consider relevant provisions in the Tasmanian *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995*, the Victorian *Agricultural And Veterinary Chemicals (Control Of Use) Act 1992* and the New South Wales *Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997*.

Recommendation 23.....page 66

The Standing Committee recommends that the penalties for serious breaches of the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to introduce penalty levels consistent with the *Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997*.

Recommendation 24.....page 67

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended so that maximum penalties for minor offences imposed by a Local Court are consistent with the relevant provision under the *Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997*.

Recommendation 25..... page 68

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to introduce a system of penalty infringement notices that are clearly defined from offences applicable for serious pesticide misuse. For example, failure to read instructions on a label may draw an offence under both provisions.

Recommendation 26..... page 69

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to provide the NSW Environment Protection Authority and Local Courts with discretionary powers to compel an offender, where appropriate, to undertake penalty measures such as education or remediation in addition to, or instead of fines.

Recommendation 27..... page 70

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to provide guidelines to the courts on matters to consider for determining penalties.

Recommendation 28..... page 71

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to empower the NSW Environment Protection Authority, through pesticide orders, to control ground based application of pesticides.

Recommendation 29..... page 72

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to empower the NSW Environment Protection Authority to issue site specific compliance notices where urgent action is required to prevent harm and/or remediate contamination from pesticides.

Recommendation 30..... page 74

The Standing Committee recommends that aircraft used for aerial spraying purposes must be accredited by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia as suitable for aerial spraying purposes. Further, that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia conduct a comprehensive consultation process to evaluate the suitability of aircraft such as ultra light aircraft for pesticide application.

Recommendation 31.....page 76

The Standing Committee recommends that WorkCover Authority of NSW's administrative responsibility for licensing of urban pest and weed controllers be transferred to the NSW Environment Protection Authority. The transfer should not only include the transfer of responsibility from WorkCover Authority of NSW to the NSW Environment Protection Authority but also the corresponding resources including funding, persons or positions, records and data needed to maintain existing responsibilities.

Recommendation 32.....page 81

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to provide inspectors with stronger powers to permit them to more effectively conduct their duties.

Recommendation 33.....page 82

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority consult with corresponding Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies with regard to inter-state mutual recognition of licences for pilots and reciprocal powers for interstate inspectors when pursuing investigations across borders.

Recommendation 34.....page 82

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority increase the number of pesticide inspectors servicing New South Wales and that the NSW Government provide additional funding to the Authority to meet such costs.

Recommendation 35.....page 84

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be augmented to provide for joint or shared liability of all parties responsible for an offence where a breach of the Act occurs. To ensure equitable and effective implementation of this concept, the Standing Committee proposes the following:

- All parties involved in the application of a pesticide which results in the commission of an offence may be liable under the *Pesticides Act 1978*;

- The *Pesticides Act 1978* should be amended to clearly define the boundaries of responsibility of each party for the application of pesticides;
- The parties should include the grower or occupier who is responsible for the application target area, the consultant or agronomist responsible for providing specialist advice and direction on the use of a pesticide, the pesticide applicator including the pilot in an aerial spraying operation or ground based operator, and any employee, employer or contractor of the parties responsible for the offence;
- In each case, it may be a defence that, the offence committed was due to causes over which the party had no control, took all reasonable precautions and used due diligence to prevent the offence being committed.

Recommendation 36 page 86

The Standing Committee recommends that the *Pesticides Act 1978* be amended to require all statutory, professional and commercial users of pesticides, including primary producers, keep records of pesticide applications and that these records should be available for inspection and/or copying by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. Accordingly the NSW Environment Protection Authority should develop a proforma document for recording relevant information.

Recommendation 37..... page 87

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority be empowered to provide records of pesticide applications for research purposes to other statutory bodies including NSW Health and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

Recommendation 38..... page 87

The Standing Committee recommends that aerial applicators be strongly encouraged implement Global Positioning Satellite marking systems as a record keeping device for use by aerial applicators. The Standing Committee recognises that such systems would not only provide irrefutable and time-saving evidence to investigators, but would also benefit applicators in defence of offences arising from pesticide applications.

Recommendation 39.....page 87

The Standing Committee recommends that areas identified for aerial pesticide application be validated by a Global Positioning Satellite marking system (handheld or other).

Recommendation 40.....page 88

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority conduct a public education program in the use, management and disposal of pesticides in non-farming situations.

Recommendation 41.....page 89

The Standing Committee supports the establishment of a statutory advisory committee in accordance with the revised model proposed by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Recommendation 42.....page 89

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority review and report on the membership and structure of the statutory advisory committee in 12 months of its establishment to determine its effectiveness and the level of stakeholder satisfaction.

Recommendation 43.....page 90

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority consult with the National Registration Authority to ensure labels on pesticides incorporate notification requirements where they are not already provided and where appropriate.

Recommendation 44.....page 90

The Standing Committee is concerned to ensure that an additional obligation for notification with respect to labelling (see Recommendation 43) be required where pesticide application is planned near schools, bus routes and environmentally sensitive areas or where a reasonably foreseeable risk of chemical trespass may occur.

Recommendation 45..... page 91

The Standing Committee on State Development will:

- **monitor the implementation of amendments to the *Pesticides Act 1978* and the impacts of such amendments for a four year period (until 30 September 2003);**
- **accept and consider any representations made to the Committee concerning amendments to the *Pesticides Act 1978* during that period; and**
- **table any additional report in the Legislative Council from time to time.**

Recommendation 46..... page 91

The Standing Committee recommends that the NSW Environment Protection Authority provide to the Standing Committee on State Development annual reviews outlining the progress and impact of any amendments to the *Pesticides Act 1978*. The first review should commence from enactment of the amendments until 30 September 2000, with reviews conducted annually thereafter to and including 30 September 2003.

Recommendation 47..... page 91

The Standing Committee recommends that NSW Agriculture provide to the Standing Committee on State Development annual reviews that identify impediments and enhancements to productivity and competitiveness experienced by the New South Wales agricultural industry emanating from amendments to the *Pesticides Act 1978*. The first review should commence from enactment of the amendments until 30 September 2000, with reviews conducted annually thereafter to and including 30 September 2003.

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The Standing Committee recommends that NSW Agriculture support research with increased funding into alternative methods to control and eradicate pests, plant disease and weeds other than by pesticide application.

