



The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

IM15/19661

Mr Stephen Targett
Crop Pollination Association Inc
PO Box 325
NARRANDERA NSW 2700

Dear Mr Targett

I refer to your letter of 26 June 2015 regarding chemical labelling.

I appreciate your concerns and recognise the detrimental effects of incorrect labelling and improper use of pesticides to the beekeeping industry.

The correct use of chemicals in agriculture for the protection of public safety, environmental health, industry and trade is a serious concern for the NSW Government. Through the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the NSW Government employs specialist industry officers working with horticulture, grains and pollinators as well as the animal industries.

You might be interested to know that DPI has dedicated an entire section of its website to bees, providing information to ensure a safe and productive industry. It can be accessed at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees.

There are also a number of industry programs that promote communication between beekeepers, farmers and spray contractors, including BeeAlert introduced by the Cotton CRC and BeeConnected led by Croplife Australia.

Poisoning, bee kills, spray drift or incidents of improper pesticide use should be reported to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The use of pesticides is regulated by the EPA under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999*, which gives EPA the authority to investigate these and other pesticide issues. People reporting an incident can assist the investigation by recording dates, times, locations, scale of loss or damage and taking photos.

I note your specific concern about the labelling of pesticide products. The labelling of pesticides is approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) as an integral part of the product registration process. Changes to labelling can be initiated by a product manufacturer or requested by the APVMA.

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The APVMA is currently working on a program to introduce instructions on product labels to minimise the risk of drift. Details about the program and other labelling issues are available on the website www.apvma.gov.au. Further enquiries can be made by email to enquiries@apvma.gov.au or via telephone on (02) 6210 4701.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, Ms Jenene Kidston, Technical Specialist Farm Chemicals, NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety, can be contacted on telephone (02) 6391 3625.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Niall Blair', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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16 SEP 2015