BAC-BR-18471

Professor Euan M Wallace AM
Secretary
Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Secretary

**STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE PESTICIDE SAFETY TEAM**

I am pleased to provide you with my expectations for the Department of Health’s (the department) Pesticide Safety team to guide the regulator’s business planning processes.

In my portfolio as Minister for Health, I administer a range of Acts and regulations designed to promote wellbeing and to protect the health of Victorians from potential health risks associated with the use of pesticides in commercial and residential situations by pest control operators currently holding a valid licence to use pesticides in Victoria.

As Minister for Health, I am responsible for administering the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act) and this guidance should be read in the context of the objectives, obligations and functions outlined in this Act. This guidance should also be read in the context of any other legislative and non-legislative obligations on the Pesticide Safety team.

Based on consultation with the department about the government’s priorities and emerging risks, my expectations for the Pesticide Safety team are as follows.

* Implement a new licensing software system to reduce the processing time for applications and improve the quality of assessment for commercial pest control operator licences.
* Continue to actively monitor compliance and where necessary, enforce the requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.*
* Continue to produce and widely distribute information about pesticide safety regulatory issues to our stakeholders.

In addition, I expect all regulators in the health portfolio to commit to and action:

* Contributing to health, wellbeing, and safety outcomes for Aboriginal people and the advancement of Aboriginal self-determination.
* Climate change adaptation and enhancing health system resilience through the improvement of environmental sustainability.

I request the department’s Pesticide Safety team to incorporate these expectations into their business plans and include milestones for when the section will meet these expectations, and report on progress. The business plans should also include appropriate milestones to review the content of this letter and to advise me when it needs to be updated or renewed.
At any time, I may request that you report on meeting my expectations or issue a new statement of expectations letter.

I further request the department’s Pesticide Safety team to undertake a light touch review of the expectations in this letter as part of their annual reporting obligations and to advise me if there are any refinements they would recommend.

I look forward to the Pesticide Safety team working continuously towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of regulation.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP**

1 / 7 / 2023