Information, Education and Regulation, an Industry Perspective

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Introduction

• NCMS Objectives.
• Why industry involvement in the NCMS was successful.
• The Fertilizer Industry Federation.
• The Fertcare Program.
• The NCMC, a useful model?
Objectives

- **Objective 3, uniform adoption of MPC’s.**
- **Adopted by all States in 2005.**
  - P products 300mg Cd/kg P
  - Trace elements 50mg Cd/kg product
  - All others 10mg Cd/kg product
Objectives

- **Objective 4. Labelling for content & warning statements.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Table 1. State Regulation and warning statements.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Suggested Regulation</strong></td>
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<td>Cadmium content</td>
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<td>Warning Statement</td>
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<td>Feeding to Livestock</td>
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*Partially achieved*
Objectives

- **Objective 4. Labelling for content & warning statements.**
- **Fertilizer Working Group**
  - Good intent, extremely slow.
- **Australian Standard**
  - Good instrument, no one home.
- **Code of Practice**
  - Under development, late 2007.
Toxic waste imports put food in danger

Industrial waste in fertilisers: Greens demand inquiry
Fertilizer Industry Federation (FIFA)

The peak fertilizer industry body.

Development and implementation of public policy.

- Quarantine
- Food Safety
- Environment
- Security
- Regulation
• An incorporated association (Vic) and registered body (ASIC).

• Not for profit.

• Board of directors elected annually.

• Members are Australian companies that manufacture, import or distribute fertilizer.

• >95% of Australian fertilizer sales.
Resources

- A$325,000 Per annum from Members 2003-2006, A$350,000 current year.
- A$700,000 from Government 2003-6
- Staff of 2.
- Effective partnership with AFSA
- Services agreement with Croplife
Industry View

- Fertilizers can contribute to both eutrophication and to concentrations of heavy metals and other undesirable chemicals in the environment and in the food chain.

- The biggest risk is through poor practice in application.
  - Good practice in manufacture, storage, transport and handling is also important.
Industry Approach

• Responsible and credible participant in the development and implementation of public policy.

• Committed to making a significant tangible contribution to effective management of the issues.

• Fertcare is central to this approach.
Objectives

- **Objective 2. Code of practice to target low cadmium fertilizers to industries at risk.**
  - Low cadmium superphosphate (100mg Cd/kg P) available and used in horticultural blends.
  - Fertcare. Comprehensive industry training program that also promotes other good practice measures.
Fertcare

- Training, quality assurance and certification.
- Focussed on environment and food safety.
- Balanced approach to productivity.
- National and open.
- Delivered to national competencies under the AQF.
Government Support
Fertcare Training

• Technical committee and expert review central to the quality of material.

• Delivered at three levels of complexity.
  - A – Logistics, spreader operators.
  - B – Sales.
  - C – Advisers, soil and plant test recommendations.
Fertcare training delivery

- **Mode to suit the intended audience.**
  - Level A – workplace training workshop
  - Level B – self paced guided CD
  - Level C – reading and coursework

- **All cross refer.**

- **All require local input.**
Fertcare quality assurance / certification

- **Accredited Adviser**
  - Recognition of prior competence.
  - Biennial independent audit.

- **Premises**
  - Environment and OHS risk management plan.
  - Biennial audit.

- **Accu-Spread**
Promotion
Promotion

Fertiliser Products
2006-2007

Fertiliser Supply Agreement
2006-2007
Promotion
Fertcare – Industry Commitment

- 100% of eligible staff to be trained by the end of 2008.
  - Those who provide advice to the customer in either a sales or advisory role and those who handle, store and spread product.

- If this is not achieved, consider non voluntary measures to achieve adoption.
NCMC – A useful model?

- **Provided trusted advice to users, to policy makers and to industry.**
  - Involvement of Government, industry and users.
  - A respected secretariat with scientific strength in the subject area.
  - Good linkage with policy makers.

- **Useful where a range of ongoing management actions are required.**
Acknowledgements
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Thank You