



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

**Minister for Agriculture
Federal Member for New England**

Ms Kareena Arthy
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
PO Box 6182
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Ms Arthy *Kareena*,

Further to my letter of 22 July 2014, thank you for your advice about the possible relocation of the APVMA outside the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Relocating the APVMA to a regional area would demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to boosting jobs growth and strengthening communities across Australia. It would also reinforce the link between the regulators of agricultural and veterinary chemicals and the agricultural communities who use the chemicals. No amount of communication can beat the understanding that comes from living and working in the communities we ultimately serve.

My preference is that the APVMA move to either Armidale or Toowoomba.

Armidale would provide an opportunity for closer collaboration with the University of New England (UNE) which has a longstanding pre-eminence in a number of agricultural related disciplines. It is also engaged in research in agricultural sciences and offers tertiary courses in rural medicine and science, including agriculture, plant, animal and general science subjects. There has been renewed investment over the past several years in UNE's research facilities, such as the UNE 'SMART Farm' for precision agriculture.

Toowoomba would provide an opportunity for closer collaboration with the University of Southern Queensland, and the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland. The Gatton campus is a leading research provider in the field of agricultural and veterinary science, with a range of new and advanced facilities, including a Wind Tunnel Research Facility for spray drift studies. The campus also hosts one of the best veterinary schools in the country.

As I said in my letter last year, no final decision will be made without consultation. I ask that you talk to your staff and stakeholders about the proposed relocation. I have also written to the University of New England, the University of Queensland and the University of Southern Queensland, seeking relevant information about the merits of their university as a potential location for the APVMA. I have asked them to respond as soon as possible as their advice

will help us in the final decision. I am also aware of the Council of Australian Governments review and the consideration of a potential merger between the APVMA and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme. Clearly we will be cognisant of this as we work through this together.

Subject to the advice from the universities, please advise me by the end of July 2015 if your agency is willing to relocate, and if so, which location would best suit your needs. This may seem like a short amount of time for such a significant decision but as you know, we have been discussing this since July last year. I am sure we would all like to settle this as soon as we can to give your staff and stakeholders certainty. We can then work to develop fully costed proposals for government's consideration, including investigating suitable accommodation. As the APVMA is a cost-recovered agency, I will need to find offsets from within my portfolio to fund the move.

I have written to Croplife, the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association, Animal Medicines Australia, the National Farmers' Federation and the NSW Farmers' Association about the proposal to assist you in your consultations.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce MP

12 MAY 2015