List of recommendations

Recommendation 1

6.21 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government undertakes a comprehensive scoping study on the need for regulatory scientists across Australian Government agencies. The scoping study should consider:

(a) the current educational, training and work experience environment for regulatory scientists;

(b) the likely future demand for regulatory scientists and the skills and competencies they will require; and

(c) the findings of the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) on the need for regulatory scientists.

6.22 In undertaking this study, relevant educational and training bodies, and Australian Government agencies, should be consulted as required.

Recommendation 2

6.23 The Committee recommends that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority works closely with the Australian education sector to identify and expand integrated learning opportunities that would provide science graduates with experience in regulatory environments.

Recommendation 3

6.29 The Committee recommends that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority progresses, as a matter of priority, the development and implementation of a robust quality control framework and a fit for purpose workflow management system.

Recommendation 4

6.30 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government takes into consideration the disruption caused by the forced relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (including the ongoing impact on staff capability and capacity), and prioritises a fit-for-purpose and stable workforce over any decentralisation policy.

Recommendation 5

6.39 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government confirms its ongoing support for the Improved Access to Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Initiative and provides sufficient funding for the initiative over the forward estimates to ensure its continued operation.
Recommendation 6

6.40 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government commissions an independent assessment of the impact of regulatory costs on the registration of minor use chemicals, with a view to obtaining evidence that would inform policy and consider the availability of minor use chemicals in Australia.

Recommendation 7

6.50 The Committee recommends that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority consults with key stakeholders to establish a formal mechanism for ongoing liaison and discussion. The forum should develop clear terms of reference which set out its working arrangements, and the minutes of each meeting should be recorded and made public in a timely manner.

Recommendation 8

6.65 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develops and implements a national strategic plan for agricultural and veterinary pest-control innovation, which addresses Australian specific environmental conditions and pests.

Recommendation 9

6.76 The Committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority undertake a formal study of the United Kingdom Pesticides Forum and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee with the aim of establishing a similar forum for the Australian regulatory environment.