

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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Mr. S. Targett
Secretary
Crop Pollination Association Inc.
P.O. Box 325
Narrandera NSW 2700

Dear Stephen

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letters of 26 and 28 June, 2015.

Unfortunately they were not received until I had come back from the NSWAA and AHBIC meetings. I imagine this was discussed at your NCPA meeting at Penrith. It would have been good if your representatives could have raised these issues at the AHBIC meeting where all delegates could have considered the issues you raised.

Firstly to your letter of 26 June. I note that this letter has been directed to APVMA. You state that "The beekeeping industry has had thousands of beehives killed or severely knocked (most of the bees killed) by agricultural chemicals in the last two years." Can you provide me with a list of these instances. This way AHBIC will have the information to hand to be able to use in any representations we may make especially when we meet with APVMA.

Were these deaths reported to APVMA in an adverse experience reporting program for agricultural chemicals? Details can be found at <http://apvma.gov.au/node/310>. As I wrote in an AHBIC newsletter many months back, beekeepers need to report these incidents. If it is not reported it did not happen according to the records. Maybe I should highlight this in the next AHBIC newsletter.

AHBIC shares your frustration in there not being any prosecutions for the misuse of chemicals. Unfortunately APVMA has no powers here. The powers lay with the States. AHBIC has raised this issue in submissions it has made.

AHBIC has been in consultation with APVMA looking at standardisation of labelling and the actual wording of these labels. This work is ongoing.

I note that you have copied this letter to many people. I would appreciate if you could keep me informed of any replies so that AHBIC knows what is going on and this knowledge would be useful if AHBIC is meeting with the these people at any time.

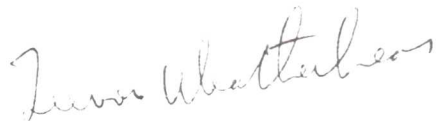
Secondly to your letter of 28 June. AHBIC can approach RIRDC re looking at current testing to see if more sensitive results can be obtained. However AHBIC would see that RIRDC should not be alone in bearing any costs that will be incurred. AHBIC would see that other bodies should be contributors to the cost of such work. This type of work would not be cheap.

As I understand your letter you are saying that the levels of detection are such that these chemicals are not being picked up and not that the current testing methods do not identify the chemicals being used.

By your chart are you asking that the level of reporting should be the same as the level of detection?

I look forward to your reply.

Regards
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trevor Weatherhead".

Trevor Weatherhead
Executive Director
14 July, 2015