

FILE No:
DOC:
MARS/PRISM:



**Queensland  
Government**

Enquiries           Stuart Cameron  
Telephone           (07) 3225 1932  
Your reference       A90871 Agsafe  
Our reference        BNE2005/5327

**Environmental Protection Agency**

Incorporating the  
**Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service**

19 April 2005

Mr Scott Gregson  
Acting General Manager  
Adjudications Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
DICKSON ACT 2602

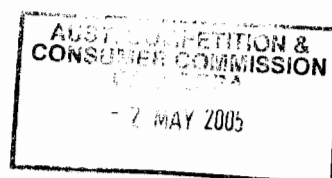
Dear Mr Gregson

**Authorisation Application lodged by Agsafe Ltd for drumMuster and ChemClear**

I am writing in response to your letter of 31 March 2005 concerning an application by Agsafe Ltd to revoke authorisation A90871 and substitute a new authorisation. The new authorisation would allow the operation of the drumMuster program to collect and recycle empty agricultural and veterinary chemical containers, and the commencement of the ChemClear program, which would allow the collection and disposal of unwanted chemical waste.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strongly supports industry initiatives to reduce waste and accept responsibility for the collection, recycling and disposal of wastes produced by the industry. The Industry Waste Reduction Scheme (IWRS) operated by the agricultural and veterinary chemical industry through Agsafe, has already led to a reduction in the use of disposable chemical containers and the recovery of 9000 tonnes of recyclable plastic. The EPA supports the continuation of the drumMuster program as an integral component of the IWRS.

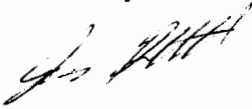
Between 2000 and 2002, the EPA spent \$5M of public funds to collect unwanted rural chemicals from throughout Queensland as part of the ChemCollect scheme. This collection was undertaken on the understanding that the agricultural and veterinary chemicals industry would establish, fund and operate an ongoing scheme (ChemClear) to collect unwanted chemicals. ChemClear would remove and safely dispose of chemicals that might otherwise impact on the health of the environment, rural communities or the State's export primary industries. These impacts have the potential to be costly to the community and the program has the EPA's full support.



In addition to the public benefits referred to above, the IWRS accords with the three principles of the *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000*. These principles include the “polluter pays principle”, in which costs associated with management of a waste should be borne by the persons generating the waste; the “user pays principle”, in which costs associated with use of a resource should be included in the costs of goods and services; and the “product stewardship principle”, in which the producer of a product should plan its design and production to minimise environmental harm that might arise from the production, use or disposal of the product.

Should you require any further information from the EPA, please contact Stuart Cameron, telephone (07) 3225 1932 or email [Stuart.Cameron@epa.qld.gov.au](mailto:Stuart.Cameron@epa.qld.gov.au) .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Purtill', written in a cursive style.

James Purtill  
**Director-General**