

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 45

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF
PESTICIDES USED BY CALM**

JULY 1992

NOTE: For the purpose of this policy, pesticides includes herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

OBJECTIVE

To monitor the use of pesticides on CALM or adjacent to CALM land so that future consequential practice will ensure minimal contamination of the environment.

BACKGROUND

The use of pesticides in Western Australia is administered under the following Acts and Regulations:

1. Health (Pesticides) Regulations
2. Restricted Spraying Regulations (APB Act)
3. Aerial Spraying Control Act
4. Agricultural Produce (Chemical Residues) Act
5. Poisons Act

In addition, the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act (Clearance of Chemicals) is a Federal piece of legislation that covers the states in relation to the clearance of chemicals and the Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare deals with occupational health and personal safety issues.

CALM uses insecticides and herbicides where there are benefits in cost and efficiency for the eradication of pests and weeds in conservation and silvicultural projects and where no other effective measures are available.

It is a routine practice by CALM to monitor for insecticide and herbicide residues in stream or river water and soil in areas where they have been used. Current guidelines for monitoring for insecticide residues are contained in the CALM Insect Manual. Guidelines for monitoring herbicide residues are to be included in the CALM Herbicides Manual during its current review.

A sub committee of the Health Department's Pesticides Advisory Committee (PAC) has been established to coordinate pesticide monitoring in the environment.

POLICIES

CALM will:

1. Develop and practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM*) and promote these methods in the rural community (* - IPM means pest control using chemical, cultural, natural biological or any other technique).

2. Participate in a pesticide monitoring program according to guidelines established by PAC's Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee.
3. Contribute information from its monitoring programs to the Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee.
4. Consult with neighbours and where appropriate initiate the provisions of the EPA Act to require others in the community to monitor effects of their use of pesticides where these uses impact on CALM managed lands and waters.

STRATEGIES

To accomplish the objective and policies CALM will:

1. Establish and maintain a committee with responsibility for:
 - pesticide related training;
 - development of pesticide application strategies;
 - implementation of the guidelines for monitoring the use of pesticides as developed by PAC's Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee;
 - implementation of recommendations of CALM's Pesticide Task Force;
 - evaluating the efficacy of different pesticide treatments and alternative techniques.

Responsibility for this committee will rest with the Director of Project Management.

2. Maintain a pesticide training program that reflects the needs of the Department and follows safety guidelines laid down by the Health Department.
3. As a priority, implement a monitoring program to determine the impacts of transient pulses of pesticides on ecosystems.
4. Fund its monitoring programs where the use of pesticides is routine practice.
5. Ensure that equipment used by employees and contractors to apply pesticides meets CALM's approved design specifications.
6. Where practical, ensure all pesticide containers are returned to nominated depots for recycling.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Distribution Lists: A, B, D, E & L

THE USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF PESTICIDES BY CALM

These usage and environmental monitoring guidelines are relevant to the terms of reference of the Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee of the EPA's Pesticides Advisory Committee (PAC).

GUIDELINES

1. CALM will participate in a pesticide monitoring program according to guidelines established by PAC's Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee.
2. CALM sees as its priority the implementation of a program to determine if transient pulses of pesticides have a permanently detrimental impact on ecosystems and proposes adoption of this program as a priority outcome of the Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee.
3. CALM will contribute information from its monitoring programs to the Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee for publication of results.
4. CALM will seek a commitment from the EPA to exercise its authority to require others in the community to monitor effects of their use of pesticides where these uses impact on CALM managed lands and water.
5. CALM will fund its monitoring programs where the use of pesticides is normal practice.
6. CALM supports the concept of wider community responsibility for financial and technical assistance for environmental monitoring and funding research programs that will provide information on the impact of pesticides on the environment.
7. CALM will promote the formation of an infrastructure by the PAC to analyse data generated by pesticide monitoring.
8. CALM supports community representation on the Environmental Monitoring Sub Committee and considers that a nominee should be appointed.
9. CALM sees the implementation of a program to monitor the effects of the use of pesticides on indigenous flora and fauna as a priority for PAC.
10. CALM will seek a commitment from EPA to exercise its authority to require others in the community to monitor the effects of their use of pesticides and herbicides on indigenous flora and fauna.
11. CALM will continue to require CALM staff to comply with health and safety requirements in pesticide use, as laid down in CALM manuals.