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Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
New South Wales

~~Mr. A. H. Young~~
V.A. Wash. D.C.

NEWS RELEASE

16TH DECEMBER, 1982.

The Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Jack Hallam, said today that Cabinet has approved of wide ranging controls over the pesticide spray 2,4,5-T.

Mr. Hallam has also released the report of the New South Wales Government Committee of Inquiry into the Use and Safety of 2,4,5-T.

The Committee, which was chaired by Mr. Walter Lewer, former Deputy Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, received 109 submissions. Its recommendations have been substantially adopted by Cabinet.

Cabinet has decided that:

1. The legal limit of TCDD (dioxin) contaminant in 2,4,5-T will be reduced from the present limit of 0.1 parts per million to 0.01 parts per million.

"The level has been lowered on the universally accepted principle that concentrations of toxic substances should be reduced to the minimum achievable." The New South Wales standard is now equal to that applying in Victoria and the U.K.

2. The higher volatile ester formulations of 2,4,5-T will be withdrawn. "This will reduce spray drift by only allowing use of the lower volatile amine and ester formulations," Mr. Hallam said.
3. Use would be prevented in home gardens. Availability will be restricted for sale in supermarkets, home garden stores, nurseries, hardware stores and similar retailers.
4. All application of 2,4,5-T from aircraft or misting machines will be prohibited. "A specific permit would be required to be issued under the Pesticides Act, 1978, for such use," Mr. Hallam said.

5. Application of 2,4,5-T within a distance of 50 metres of any inhabited dwelling, public building, dam, river, water channel, or stream would also require a permit.
6. To prevent the possibility of consumption, all application of 2,4,5-T to blackberries bearing ripe fruit will be prohibited.
7. All applicants for registration of 2,4,5-T will be required to keep records, and make returns, of the amount sold or supplied in N.S.W.
8. To protect employees, all workers including Government and Local Government, will be required to wear protective clothing when mixing or using 2,4,5-T. Employees will be required to wear a boiler type suit with sleeves and buttoned at the wrists and throat, gauntlet gloves, washable hat and impervious boots or shoes. When mixing, a face shield is to be worn; and when working in any spray drift, a respirator.

"Employers will be required to provide the protective clothing to employees," Mr. Hallam said.
9. Government and Local Government employees exposed to 2,4,5-T will be required to undergo regular medical examinations to measure occupational exposure.
10. Employers will be required to give appropriate training to employees on the correct use of 2,4,5-T.
11. "Defective equipment in respect to leakages, spillages and spray output will not be allowed," Mr. Hallam said.

"The Government has taken account of the A.C.T.U. Executive recommendations on this chemical.

"An Advisory Committee on pesticides has been established. The Committee is to consist of senior officers representing various Government Departments together with a Trade Union representative and a representative of environmental groups.

The broad terms of reference of the Committee are to:

- * Keep certain pesticides under review; including the uses to be allowed for such pesticides;
- * Examine new proposed uses of pesticides, where it is considered special circumstances exist; and
- * Receive representations, in person and in writing, from trade unions, environmental and other organisations; and consider the evidence presented.

In addition the Pesticides Act, 1978, will be amended to require the licensing of aircraft applicators and pilots.

"Pilots will be required to demonstrate they are aware of the problems associated with pesticides, and use of these chemicals from aircraft," Mr. Hallam said.

"Licences could be suspended or even cancelled if infringements occur."

Proprietors of agricultural aircraft operations will be required to hold an appropriate insurance policy to cover loss or damage.

"Aircraft will be required to be approved beforehand and records of all spraying operations must be kept. These records will be available to Inspectors at any time, or to other persons upon reasonable request," Mr. Hallam said.

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