

## PMITAG NSW Summary Report to the AEPMA NSW Council

By Dr Chris Orton, Secretary, Urban Pest Management Industry Training Advisory Group NSW  
02/04/22

The last meeting of PMITAG NSW was on 9 March 2022 by Zoom with Keith Farrow as Chair.

There were 10 participants and 10 apologies.

Note: Where the term 'PM' is used in this document it means 'Pest Management' or 'Pest Manager'.

Main areas discussed were:

1. Election of PMITAG NSW Chair and 2 Deputy Chairs

The resignation of Ray Vidler our long-standing Chair precipitated an election of Chair and 2 Deputy Chairs. K. Farrow was elected Chair and G. Stephenson and G. Jones were elected Deputy Chairs.

2. New TAFE NSW PM contact person

J. Tannous reported that TAFE NSW has promoted him to the new position of 'TAFE Industry Innovation Specialist for Construction and Engineering' (which includes PM). This means that he is now the TAFE NSW contact person for training matters relating to PM.

3. NSW Membership and Circulation Lists

Membership and Circulation Lists continue to be dynamic. At this meeting Kerrie Undery (Rapid Training) became a member. There was one addition to and one removal from the Circulation List.

4. Training Package Review process.

Despite the recent announcement that the present Industry Training Package review system will be replaced by a new system based on 'Industry Clusters', PMITAG will continue its efforts to gain information using our recently instigated Package Review Survey to add to our Continuous Improvement Register as this will help us to improve the units when the next review emerges in the new process. Further RTOs will be surveyed in the near future.

5. TAFE NSW Delivery of the full Cert 3 qualification

On 7 March, W. Brouwer (TAFE NSW) emailed a short report on the current status of TAFE's ability to offer the full Cert 3 qualification. It explains that because TAFE has had to engage external parties to assist in developing courses and Units for online delivery, there has been a delay in offering Units 5, 6 and 18 (now near completion) and Units 8 and 10 (uncertain completion).

6. Report from From ACFIPS ITAB NSW (Arts, Communications, Finance Industries and Property Services Industry Training Advisory Body NSW).

G. Cheetham, Senior Project Officer, reported on the following:

PM Course activity data A brief update was presented on previously circulated NSW course enrolment, commencement and completion data for 2019 to 2021.

PM Recruitment Official NSW employment data for the last 30 days shows that 22 PM positions were listed. However these figures would be substantially increased if

recruitment via several PM Facebook pages (eg. 'NSW PM Association' and 'Aust PM Association') was included.

Public warning from NSW Fair Trading On 8 March 2022, NSW FT issued a public warning for consumers 'not to deal with unlicensed PMs'.

Industry Regulations Meeting On Monday 14 March 2022, Services NSW is to hold a meeting on 'Industry Regulations' that will include licensing regulations in the Real Estate and PM industries. G. Cheetham asked if there were any issues we wanted raised. It was pointed out that P. Legey and G. Stephenson have been in constant contact with EPA NSW for several years on licensing, so EPA is well aware of the PM industry position.

Industry 'Clusters' All Skills Services Organisations (eg Artibus) are busy forming new relationships around the new Industry Clusters which are to be finalised late this year. It still has to be decided if PM will stay in the Building/ Construction cluster or moved to the Agriculture cluster.

#### 7. Current status of AEPMA Codes of Best Practice (CoBPs)

G. Stephenson briefly reported on the status of the CoBPs and connected matters: Three CoBPs now are finalised and these Codes can now be viewed on the AEPMA website:

i. The new CoBP for Rodent Management;

ii. The revised CoBP for Pest Management in the Food Industry (Some work has been done on its Training Course);

iii. The revised CoBP for Prior to Purchase Timber Pest Inspections

The review process is still in progress for three CoBPs:

iv. The CoBP for the control of Bed Bug Infestations - The WP met on 100621 to continue its review of this CoBP. S. Doggett (WP Chair) called for submission of amendments which were to be considered at the next meeting at the AEPMA Conference (now postponed). Date of next meeting is still uncertain as S. Doggett was required to prioritise Japanese Encephalitis (mosquito) ans has had a period of sick leave.

v. The CoBP for Termite Management During Construction is moving forward but still has a way to go.

vi. The CoBP for Termite Management is still to be reviewed;

The review process is on hold for one CoBP:

vii. The CoBP for PM Industry Training is on hold awaiting the completion of the reviews of the other Codes.

#### 8. AEPMA Field Biologist Training Course

G. Stephenson delivered the first AEPMA Feld Biologist course in Sydney in January 2019 and a revised course in 2020. He reported that he recently delivered the third course in Sydney and it was well received by the candidates.

#### 9. Development of Improved Pest Management Licensing Standards in New South Wales

G. Stephenson reported that there have been many enquiries asking if current or earlier timber pest Units of Competency (or other qualifications) would continue to be recognised for the NSW Timber Pest License. Martin Bowles (EPA NSW) responded when asked, that existing timber pest qualifications would continue to be recognised.

#### 10. Final Report of the Independent Review of the Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory System

It was agreed previously that C. Orton would scan the Final Report (as he had done for the Draft Report) noting issues of particular importance to Urban Pest

management and significant changes from the Draft Report. However despite spending several days examining and summarising the Final PVM Report he was annoyed (though not surprised) to learn quite by accident in early February 2022, that 'New Agvet chemical legislation' had passed through the Parliament on 1 December 2021. Comparison of the new legislation with the 58 Final PVM Report recommendations revealed that very few of the recommendations even rated a mention in the new legislation.

11. Entomology courses for PMs available from Australian Universities

An enquiry was lodged by D. Wilson to C. Orton on possible entomology courses that might be available to PMs who want to increase their insect knowledge out of interest or for professional development. This was referred to Assoc Prof David Merritt of University of Queensland. He confirmed that very few undergraduate entomology course units are now taught by Australian universities and those are mainly service units for Diplomas or Associate Diplomas, are extremely expensive and not really appropriate for urban pest managers. Their focus is mainly on agricultural pests and fumigation is often not covered at all. R. Drew reported that some OS Universities offer online entomology training. For example he has completed a free University of Alberta introductory online course 'Insect-Human Interactions' at <https://www.coursera.org/learn/bugs-101> and found it useful. C. Orton reported that Purdue University offers correspondence and online courses including some on urban pests for example: [https://www.eventreg.purdue.edu/eC2K/Heading.aspx?heading\\_id=245](https://www.eventreg.purdue.edu/eC2K/Heading.aspx?heading_id=245). One downside of such offshore courses is that some of our critically important urban species are not covered at all.

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