



26 APR 2019

19-D-00496

s 9(2)(a)

Agcarm

s 9(2)(a) [@agcarm.co.nz](mailto:s 9(2)(a)@agcarm.co.nz)

Dear

s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 27 March 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

'... for a copy of the MfE briefing document provided by MfE to Associate Minister Eugenie Sage in relation to the meeting held with Agcarm on the 18 February.'

There is one document in scope of your request, a briefing note dated 15 February 2019, *Meeting with Agcarm 18 February 2019*. Please find attached a copy of the briefing note, which is being released to you in full.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment will publish responses to most of our requests for official information on our web site on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent to you.

If you have any queries about this response, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team at ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Glenn Wigley
Director - Marine and Environmental Risk and Science



Meeting with Agcarm 18 February 2019

Date Submitted:	15 February 2019	Tracking #: 2019-B-05301	
Security Level	In Confidence	MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent

	Action sought: match to recommendations	Response by:
To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment	Discuss with Agcarm	4:30pm 18 February 2019

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	Return the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices and attachments	Nil
Note any feedback on the quality of the report	

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Responsible Manager	Brian Hallinan	022 066 8420	✓
Director	Glenn Wiggley	027 491 7806	

Meeting with Agcarm 18 February 2019

1. You are meeting with Mark Ross, Chief Executive, Agcarm, and several Agcarm board members, to discuss the agricultural chemicals industry. Glenn Wigley and Brian Hallinan from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) will also attend the meeting.

Date	Monday, 18 February 2019		
Time	4:30pm – 5 pm		
Location	Your office		
Contacts	Ministry for the Environment Brian Hallinan Mobile: 022 066 8420 Glenn Wigley 027 497 7806 Agcarm Mark Ross 027 442 9965 mark.ross@agcarm.co.nz		

2. Agcarm is a body that represents and advocates for the plant and animal science industries. Its members distribute and sell the majority of veterinary medicines and crop protection products in New Zealand.
3. Mark Ross has been Chief Executive of Agcarm since 2015, having previously worked as General Manager of Policy and Advocacy with Federated Farmers of New Zealand and has held senior positions at the Ministry for Primary Industries. Mark intends to bring to the meeting a small number of Agcarm members and board members who are available.
4. Agcarm has indicated that it would like to discuss its wider industry, and the drive for innovation, inclusive of bringing softer/safer products to the New Zealand market.
5. Agcarm is involved in the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA's) Stakeholder Reference Group on Hazardous Substances Modernisation. The issues Agcarm tends to raise with officials relate to:
 - speed of processing approvals for chemicals, including communication during the assessment period, and flow-on implications of delays on the seasonal business
 - lack of consistency between individual approvals, compared to group standards, with implications on predictability of what can be approved
 - EPA staff turnover and balance of science and academic perspectives
 - lack of data protection in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) compared to the Agricultural Chemicals and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) regime.
6. Many of the issues Agcarm has raised are included in the scope of the EPA's Hazardous Substances Modernisation programme, and/or tie into the improvements MfE and EPA are considering as part of the reassessments legislation project, e.g. the "Trusted Regulator" concept.

7. You may wish to ask the Agcarm attendees about:

- a. the impact of the issues they raise
- b. how they consider MfE and EPA have responded to these issues
- c. what are the challenges and opportunities Agcarm sees over the medium-term horizon, including what these mean for both the industry and government agencies.

Background information

8. Agcarm's stated objectives are to:

- Strive for effective and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology through industry leadership and advocacy.
- Achieve a balanced and science-based regulatory environment that gives members freedom to operate and grow in New Zealand.
- Enable farmers and growers to supply high quality food and fibre into domestic and global markets.
- Create an environment that encourages competition through innovation.
- Promote stewardship and responsible use of products.
- Support health and wellbeing of pets, livestock and people.

9. Agcarm has more than 60 members, including animal health and crop-protection product manufacturers, distributors, and a range of individual members from the sector.

Signature



Brian Hallinan - Manager
Environmental Risk and Innovation

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

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