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1 The Need

AFAC has an existing position to support the use of wildland chemicals that appear on the United States Department Agriculture, (USDA), QPL. A number of ANZ manufacturers have indicated that they wish to produce wildland firefighting chemicals but the cost and logistical issues associated with USDA testing creates a significant impediment to them doing so. Several Australian companies are currently undertaking the USDA process but this has caused issues for USDA as they do not want products that won't be sold in the USA to appear on the USDA QPL.

To overcome this issue USDA have suggested, (via FFMG), that ANZ create its own QPL for wildland firefighting chemicals and they have given their permission for their testing procedures to be adapted and used by AFAC as the basis for an ANZ testing process.

2 Benefits and Strategic Alignment

The member agencies of the Rural and Land Management Group, (RLM), have recognised the need for a review of the AFAC wildland fire chemical use position. Creation of an ANZ QPL listing for only those products that appear on the USDA QPL that are sold in ANZ is relatively easy but a significant amount of work will be required to reach consensus on an ANZ testing regime that meets the varying environmental and operational requirements that exist between Australian States and Territories and New Zealand.

The potential benefits of an ANZ testing regime and associated QPL are faster approvals, more innovation, lower purchase prices for agencies through greater competition between suppliers, better application of the environmental standards to Australian and New Zealand circumstances and greater certainty on industrial relations issues on chemical safety. It assists in achieving Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan.

3 Proposal

The main deliverable for the project is an Australian specific QPL and associated testing procedures.

The key milestones of the project are expected to be:

- Prepare for approval a detailed project plan - April 2011;
- Identify and establish a working group of agency and industry specialists to provide resources and technical expertise - February 2010 – Completed;

CREATE an ANZ TESTING REGIME and PRODUCTS LIST for WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING CHEMICALS

Project Concept Plan-PPM1

- Prepare a provisional ANZ QPL by transferring suppliers from the current USDA list - March 2011 - Completed;
- Investigate environmental and safety standards applicable in Australia and New Zealand - October 2011;
- Draft ANZ testing procedures for wildland chemicals by adapting the USDA procedures to meet Australian and New Zealand conditions. May 2011;
- Identify and endorse independent test facilities and chemical laboratories - September 2011;
- Prepare a position paper for consideration of AFAC Council - August 2011;
- Prepare required documentation and systems to support the approved option - November 2012; and
- Establish service arrangements and close the project November 2013.

3.1 Consultation

The key stakeholders for the project are the member agencies and chemical suppliers. Consultation will also be required with environmental protection agencies in each jurisdiction, water supply authorities, chemical and work safety agencies and federal agencies. The use of chemicals has been an industrial issue at times so consultation will be required with employee representative organisations.

Draft documents will be provided to the Rural and Land Management, Wildfire Aviation Technical, Community Safety, Workforce Management, Forest Fire Management Group, Fire Equipment Development Officers Group and Occupational Health and Safety Groups for consideration and feedback as part of the consultative process.

3.2 Resources Needed

Most of the work will be undertaken by the Manager RLM with support from Arthur Tindall and the Manager Standards. The members of the working group may be called on to provide resources at the technical and writing up stages of the project. The total cost of the project is estimated to be less than \$10K.

4 Approval

There is support from the RLM Group for this project to proceed and members of a working Group have already been nominated. A Project Plan (PPM2) will be prepared.

When consensus is reached on an ANZ testing regime and associated QPL a position paper will be prepared and endorsement sought from AFAC Council.