

## BULLETIN

# Chemical Spray Drift

All agricultural chemicals applied through spraying have the potential to drift away from the target areas. This is known broadly as spray drift. Spray drift has the potential to cause injury or damage to plants, animals, environment or property, and can affect human health.

Under the *NT Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011*, a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the health and safety of workers and others, including surrounding land users, are not put at risk from activities associated with spraying including the risks associated with spray drift.

## Plan before spraying

Chemical spraying is safe when performed by a responsible operator, who follows manufacturers' recommendations, including personal safety requirements. However, undesirable spray drift can occur when chemicals are misused or risks associated with this activity are not carefully evaluated and appropriate controls identified.

Some considerations before spraying include:

- a property management plan that includes spray drift awareness zones and potential buffer areas;
- neighbours consulted and notified;
- correct chemicals and equipment for the job;
- optimal weather conditions, including temperature;
- your own and others Personal Protective Equipment; and
- supervision, training or competency requirements to undertake the task.

## Further information and relevant legislation

The **Northern Territory Farmers Association** can assist in resolving difficulties which arise between agricultural neighbors and may be contacted on **+61 8 8983 3233**

*Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and Regulations.

- administered by the NRETAS, Environmental Protection Agency, dealing primarily with pollution impacts associated with spray drift, as well as providing a central reporting hotline for pollution related issues.
- further information is available from [www.nretas.nt.gov.au/environment-protection/](http://www.nretas.nt.gov.au/environment-protection/)
- complaints regarding spray drift should be made to **Pollution Response Line: Free Call 1800 064 567**

*Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act and Regulations.*

- administered by the Chemical Service Branch of Department of Resources, dealing primarily with complaints associated with damage to agricultural produce, animals or agricultural land from spray drift.
- further information is available from [www.nt.gov.au/d/Primary\\_Industry/](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Primary_Industry/)
- Complaints concerning damage to agricultural produce, animals or land should be directed in writing to the **Chemical Adviser, Chemical Services – Berrimah Farm, PO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801, Tel. +61 89992016**

*Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 and Regulations.*

- administered by NT WorkSafe, with a primary focus on the health and safety of workers and others potentially exposed to spray drift activities and impacts.
- further information is available from [worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://worksafe.nt.gov.au)

**For further information please contact NT WorkSafe on 1800 019 155 or go to [worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://worksafe.nt.gov.au)**