



## **Media Release: All party acceptance that EPA actions are not adequate.**

**To:** Mainstream and Internet media

**Re:** Election Forum at Dubbo on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

### **Background:**

Dubbo hosted the latest in Agricultural Political debates on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Representatives from The Greens, Shooters and Fishers, One Nation, Labor and National Party were invited guests on the panel.

During the event a number of questions relating to both Passive Chemical Exposures and Spray drift were put to the panellists.

There were individual responses to the questions put with ALL PANELLISTS stating to the audience present and online, ***“that responses from the EPA to community notifications were not adequate.”***

### **Community Overspray Groups Statement:**

The responses from all of the major parties at the forum (including the current Minister for Agriculture) corroborates the experience of groups interacting with the NSW EPA when advising of pollution notifications.

Pollution notifications regarding vegetation, bees and water incidents are not being evaluated to a standard that meets community expectations. In most cases investigated by our Groups no evidence was available to indicate that assessments had been made on notifications made directly to the EPA.

Our Groups will be calling for all parties to the NSW election to follow through on the acknowledgement that Communities are being affected by Passive Chemical Exposures and seek their commitment to act on their duty of care to protect Rural communities and the environment.

The COG's operate as a non-profit community representatives to ensure the protection of community, landscapes and livelihoods in our rural areas.

Our guiding principle is a Winston Churchill quotation:

*‘Truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it. Ignorance may deride it. Malice may distort it. But there it is.’*

### **Evidence Base:**

Multiple lines of background can be supplied on the Passive Chemical Exposures being experienced:

- Political knowledge (including Ministerial)

- Science background

- Vegetation evidence

- First-hand accounts of impact.

Contact with other industry, community and environmental groups with direct experience of impact and EPA responses.

For all initial enquiries:

Contact the Convenor- Bruce Maynard

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