

No. 10B



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

Report

on

THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF PESTICIDES IN
NEW SOUTH WALES

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INQUIRY'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Use and Management of Pesticides in New South Wales

(Reference received 12 November 1999)

That in light of:

- its inquiry into the Role of Government in Facilitating the International Competitiveness of Agriculture in New South Wales, and
- the widespread community consultation that was conducted in 1997 by the NSW Environment Protection Authority in conjunction with the Government's *Discussion Paper on Improving Pesticide Management in NSW*;

the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on issues associated with all pesticide use in NSW and options for future policy and/or programs related to the management of pesticides, including all agricultural chemicals, having particular regard to:

- the sustainability of agricultural activities which currently rely on intensive pesticide use;
- the social, health, environmental and trade interests of the agricultural and wider community, including the need for avoiding and reducing the risks associated with pesticide use;
- the role of pesticide users, local government, State agencies and other stakeholders (including environment and other community groups) in the resolution of local conflicts in relation to pesticide use; and
- any opportunities for industry to address the issues through research and development (on aspects such as less pesticide-dependent plant varieties, improved pesticide products and application techniques) and the development and implementation of best management practices for pesticide use.

For the purposes of the inquiry, the Minister for the Environment has advised that the term pesticides includes herbicides, bactericides, pest baits, fungicides, insecticides, pest lures, rodenticides and pest repellents.

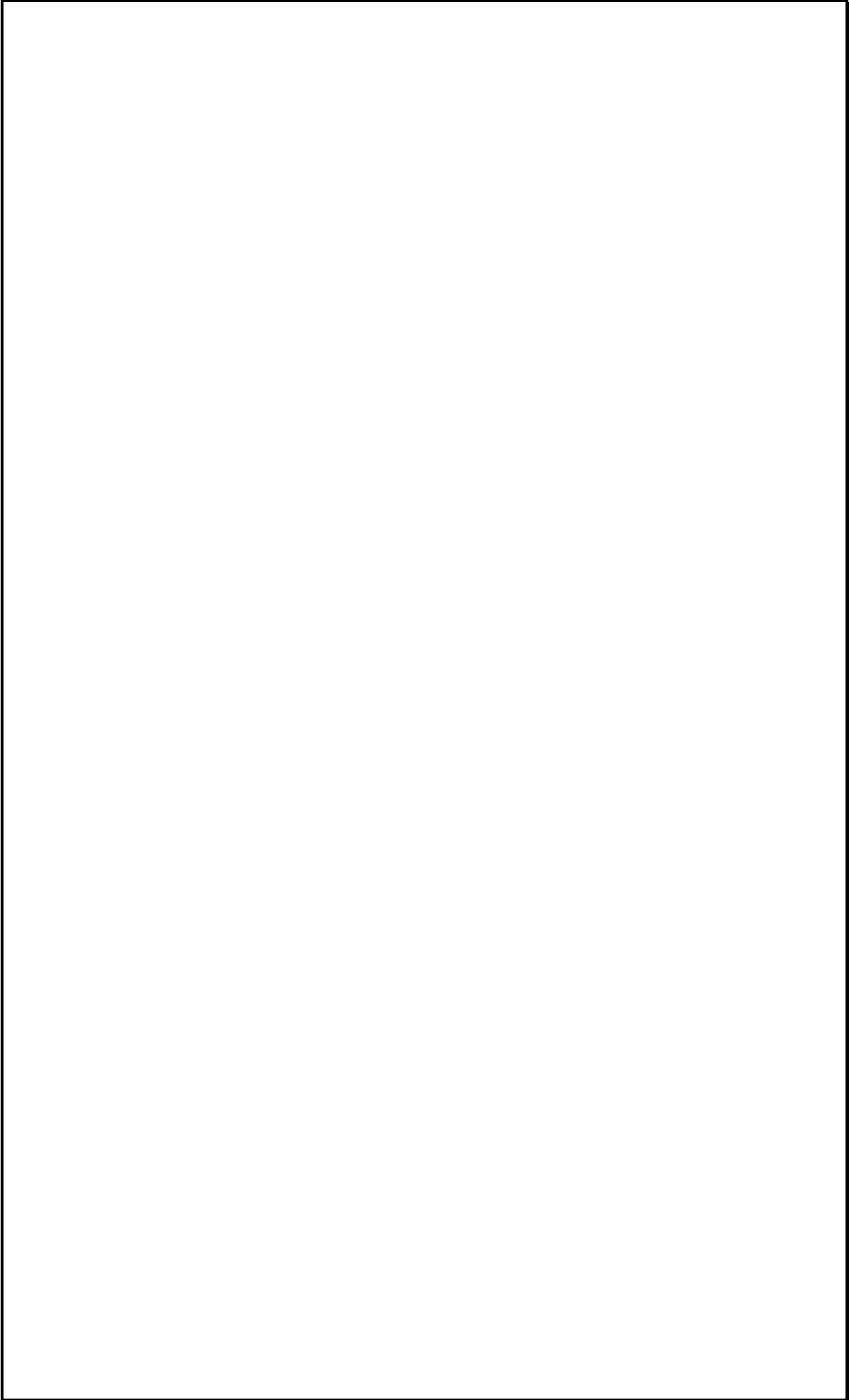
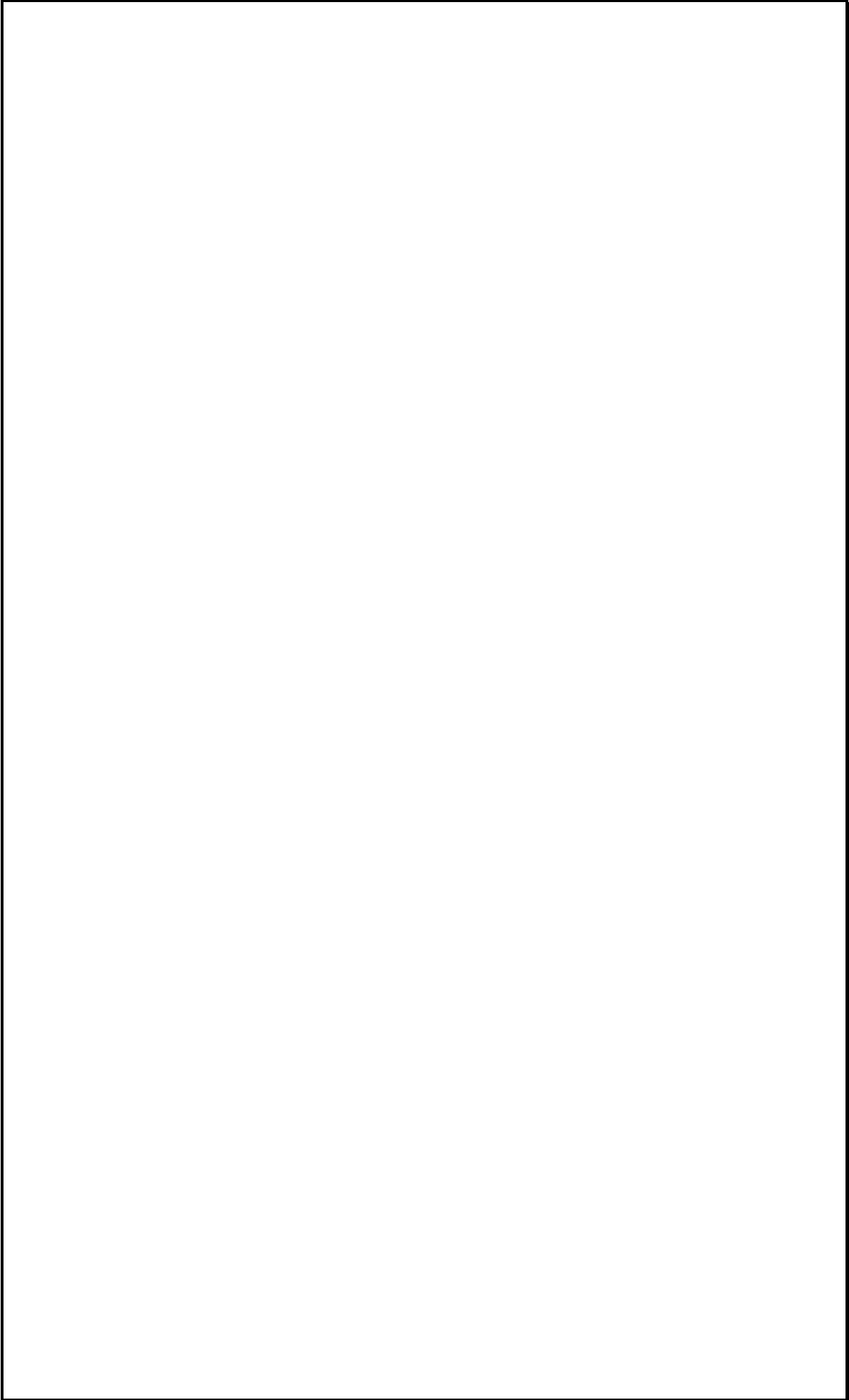


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MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Hon Tony Kelly, MLC
Australian Labor Party Chairman

The Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti, RFD MLC
Liberal Party Deputy Chairman

The Hon Ian Cohen, MLC
The Greens

The Hon John Johnson, MLC
Australian Labor Party

The Hon Ian Macdonald, MLC
Australian Labor Party

SECRETARIAT TO COMMITTEE

Ms Anna McNicol
(Until 16 July 1999) Director

Mr Steven Carr Senior Project Officer

Mr Robert Stefanic
(For the period 2 August 1999 – 17 September 1999) Senior Project Officer

Ms Annie Marshall Committee Officer

ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

In June 1988, the Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament resolved to establish two Standing Committees—the Standing Committee on Social Issues and the Standing Committee on State Development. After the 1995 election a third Committee, the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, was established. At that time the Standing Committee on Privilege and Ethics was reconstituted by resolution.

The functions of the State Development Committee, as set out in the Resolutions of the Legislative Council, are to inquire into, consider and report to the Council on: ¹

- options for future policy directions and emerging issues to ensure that opportunities for sound growth and wise development for the benefit of the people in all areas of New South Wales are pursued;
- any proposal, matter or thing concerned with economics and finances, resources and energy, transportation, tourism, public administration, local government, the Olympics, primary industry, industrial and technological developments and environmental issues in New South Wales; and
- any proposal, matter or thing concerned with the problems or disadvantages uniquely or predominantly experienced in country areas, including the viability of cities and towns in those areas.

¹ Legislative Council, 1st Session, 52nd Parliament, Committees, Resolutions, Office Holders and Ministerial Representation, (Draft), p.6.

OPERATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Matters for inquiry may be referred to the Standing Committee by a Minister of the Crown or by resolution of the Legislative Council. Additionally the Standing Committee may inquire into and report to the House on any annual report or petition that has been tabled in the Legislative Council that is relevant to the functions of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee may publish papers and evidence taken in public, as it considers appropriate. In that connection the Standing Committee may prepare and distribute discussion papers as aids to its inquiries.

The Legislative Council resolution enables the Standing Committee to:

- summons witnesses;
- make inspections;
- call upon the services of government organisations and their staff with the consent of the appropriate Minister;
- accept written submissions concerning inquiries from any person or organisation;
- conduct public hearings; and/or
- meet and make joint reports with other federal and state parliamentary committees.

Reports must be tabled in the Legislative Council within ten days of adoption by the Standing Committee. Each report is debated in the House. The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council is required to respond within six months to any recommendations for Government action that have been set out in Standing Committee reports.

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