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VC37**SPRAY DRIFT**

This policy applies to use and development that requires a permit that may generate, or be affected by, spray drift.

Policy Basis

Horticulture is an important component of the agricultural industry for the Shire. Apple and pear growing in Harcourt and the surrounding area has clearly established itself as a local and regional industry. The grape growing industry is an expanding industry. The protection of the industry from non-complementary uses and developments is essential. Part of that protection will include residual effects caused by other agricultural production within the surrounding areas.

Objective

- To locate new residential uses and sensitive agricultural uses so that the impact of agricultural chemical spray drift on amenity and health is avoided or limited.
- To ensure adequate assessment is made of possible conflict of agricultural chemical spray drift for both the activity applying agricultural chemicals and the activity which may be affected.
- To ensure adequate measures are taken to avoid or limit the effects of the spray drift of chemicals.

Policy

It is policy that:

- That applications to use and develop land for the purpose of a dwelling adjacent to an established horticultural land use or located within an established horticultural area shall be advertised in accordance with Section 52A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
- The responsible authority may take into consideration the following factors:
 - the potential for off target movement of agricultural chemicals and its potential effect on sensitive uses including residences, water storage and particular forms of agriculture;
 - the location of the use and development in relation to the release point of the spray;
 - the topography of the land, the ability of vegetation to capture spray droplets;
 - the micro-climatic conditions of the area; and
 - the method of application, frequency of application and target structure.
- Residential development, sensitive agricultural uses and other uses which may be affected by agricultural chemical spray drift should be located or include measures such that chemical spray drift does not adversely affect community public health and safety.
- The recommended separation distance between dwellings and agricultural land is minimum of 300 metres. This distance may be reduced or increased depending on the environmental and topographic features of land separating the dwelling from the agricultural land use.