

6.2 ALTERNATIVE TO GLYPHOSATE

Submitting Councillor: Cr Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

1. *Notes the current social and environmental concerns about the Glyphosate including:*
 - a. *The classification of glyphosate as ‘probably carcinogenic to humans’ by the World Health Organisation’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)ⁱ;*
 - b. *The outcome of recent American Court cases¹ in which it was decided that certain products containing glyphosate were a substantial factor in causing the Non-Hodgkins lymphoma suffered by the claimantsⁱⁱ;*
2. *Approves Council participation in the MAV/Deakin University study on weed management strategy-alternative to Glyphosate, and have a report back to Council as soon as practicable.*

BACKGROUND

Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum systemic herbicide. It is used to kill weeds, and was brought to market for agricultural use by Monsanto under the trade name Roundup in 1974.

There is evidence suggesting that regular exposure to glyphosate may be linked to a higher risk of developing Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in humansⁱⁱⁱ, and have severe cardiovascular impacts for other mammals^{iv}.

The World Health Organisation’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2A carcinogen) in March 2015.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) classified glyphosate as causing serious eye damage and as toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects^v. There is also evidence that the use of glyphosate is having a negative impact upon bee populations^{vi}.

Countries including Germany, Austria, the UAE, Argentina, Belgium, Bahrain, Vietnam, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Thailand are phasing out or have banned the use of glyphosate.

The recent poisoning of 10 trees in Wheelers Hill, resulting in a successful prosecution, involved the use of glyphosate^{vii}.

The MAV and Deakin University are preparing to conduct a joint study on weed management strategy including alternatives to Glyphosate and are currently seeking councils to partner with.

¹ *Pilliod v. Monsanto Co; Dewayne Johnson v. Monsanto Company and Edwin Hardeman v. Monsanto Co*

ⁱ Environmental Sciences Europe, Volume 31 (2019)

ⁱⁱ <https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/bayer-ordered-to-pay-couple-2-9b-in-roundup-cancer-lawsuit-20190514-p51n06.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4025008/>

^{iv} <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs12012-014-9282-y>

^v <https://echa.europa.eu/>

^{vi} Erick V. S. Motta, Kasie Raymann, Nancy A. Moran. Glyphosate perturbs the gut microbiota of honey bees. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2018

^{vii} <https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/News/Illegal-poisoning-of-trees-results-in-prosecution>