



Project Pollinator First

The end of summer.

A sun-drenched day. Bees foraging on wild brassicas. Children playing on the grass while their siblings roll on the South Arm Skatepark. Parents chatting and laughing, enjoying the last few weeks of warmth. Council workers asking parents to leave the park, brassicas sprayed with a **glyphosate-based herbicide**. Bees left to die and those that do survive, carry contaminated nectar and pollen back to the hive.

This event occurred in South Arm this month and is happening regularly in public spaces, parks and roadsides throughout Tasmania – no dye is used in the spray, no signage or notification is provided to beekeepers, neighbouring properties or to residents who may be walking their dog after the spray event.

And it is not just herbicides, but other chemicals such as **fipronil and neonicotinoids** that are killing bees and pollinators, contaminating hives and threatening Tasmania's clean, green branding.

A beekeeping site recently highlighted significant bee deaths in the north of Tasmania. We can only guess it is **fipronil** that caused this mass destruction of thousands of bees.

A new AgriGrowth Tasmania survey found that 68% of beekeepers own 2% of hives (1-10 hives). This suggests most beekeepers are backyard, urban or peri-urban farmers who are disproportionately at risk of their bees being exposed to chemicals such as **glyphosate-based herbicides** and **fipronil**.

It is time for a chemical use protocol in urban, peri-urban and public spaces.

- 1 The Safety Data Sheet for **fipronil** states it is 'toxic to bees.'
- 2 Chemicals such as **fipronil** kill indiscriminately.
- 3 Australia is about to hear its first lawsuit against Monsanto regarding cancer caused by **glyphosate-based herbicides**.
- 4 There are 42,700 similar lawsuits underway around the world.
- 5 Emerging research demonstrates the impact these chemicals are having on people, non-target species and the environment.

We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 91% of our food. Children are fascinated by these facts and happily share their excitement about bees and pollinators with anyone who chooses to listen. We owe it to the next generation to act now and protect our pollinators.

