



Media release

Bayer settles \$10 billion cancer lawsuits

Yesterday's announcement that chemical giant Bayer will enter a \$10 billion (\$15.9 billion AUD) settlement with 90,000 litigants is welcome news for the thousands of people impacted by the commonly used herbicide, Glyphosate, sold under the product name 'RoundUp'. A further \$1.3 billion has been set aside for future claims with 30,000 cases remaining unsettled.

The agreement is one of the largest in US history and the move aims to bring closure to litigation in the United States, paving the way for pending cases in Australia.

"Following the first successful lawsuit from Groundsman Dewayne Johnstone in 2018, thousands of people have come forward with claims that Glyphosate has caused their cancer," said Founder of the Bee Collective, Jenni McLeod.

"The Johnstone V Monsanto lawsuit, followed swiftly by the Pilliod court case put on the record the extent to which industry has lied to the public about the safety of this product."

"Entering into a settlement is one way for Bayer to avoid further scrutiny."

In Australia, 'RoundUp' and other products containing the active ingredient glyphosate are regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).

The APVMA bases its decisions of chemical approval on a weight-of-evidence assessment. The Monsanto Papers, released leading up to the Johnstone case, reveal Monsanto sponsored ghostwriting of articles published in toxicology journals and lay media, interference in the peer review process, behind-the-scenes influence on retraction and the creation of an 'academic' website as a front for the defence of Monsanto products.

Which is why it is shocking that Agriculture Minister, David Littleproud, claimed yesterday the product is safe.

"If the Minister had been properly briefed on the Monsanto Papers, he would know the problems with a weight-of-evidence assessment based on the current evidence," said Ms McLeod.

"It's either malfeasance or incompetence to claim glyphosate is safe."

Although Bayer says the settlement is not an admission of liability or wrongdoing, the pending Australian cases have the potential to highlight exactly how corporations expose people to cancer causing chemicals and will bring forward community resistance to domestic, commercial and agricultural use of Glyphosate.

"The Bee Collective will continue to work towards a spray free community."

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[The Bee Collective](#)