

Mr Nick Haddow
Chairperson
Brand Tasmania
6/15 Murry Street
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Jenni McLeod

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23 May 2019

Dear Chairperson

Re: Correspondence 1-Glyphosate and Branding

My name is Jenni and I am the owner and operator of Beautiful Girls Honey based on the South Arm Peninsula. I have been a Beekeeper for 17 years and chose South Arm as a perfect location to set up my hives. I am an urban farmer.

Beautiful Girls currently supplies First Choice Food Co-Op <https://www.firstchoicefoodcoop.com/> as well as the Flower Room in Hobart, Goodwood Community Centre and Opossum Bay Shop with natural, raw honey. I also donate honey at the end of each season to communities in need, last season it was Jordan River Learning Federation. The annual Honey and Bee Market at South Arm each February is an initiative I organised, aimed at educating the community about the importance of bees as well as providing an opportunity for amateur beekeepers, Tasmanian Junior Beekeepers the Southern Tasmanian Beekeepers Association and others to showcase their products and services. 2019 was our 3rd annual market. I also initiated and coordinated the Bee Book project, a book written by children in Goodwood for children everywhere. The book was a community led project published through 40 South Publishing and has sold out its first print run of 750 books. This book provided us with an opportunity to build strong connections with Simon Mulvany from Save the Bees Australia <https://www.facebook.com/savethebeesau/> and Ben Moore from Ben's Bees <https://www.facebook.com/BensBees/>. Both are social media influencers with a large online following and Simon keynoted a Health Literacy forum I recently organised: <https://www.facebook.com/pluggedincommunity/videos/604764240004881/>

On World Bee Day this year (May 20) the authors announced the launch of a grant round funded from the book sales to promote Bee Friendly projects throughout Tasmania. You can hear 11 year old Amala Webb speaking about the grant with Ryk Goddard on ABC Hobart here: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/hobart/programs/breakfast/bee-literate-on-world-bee-day/11129432?fbclid=IwAR1RVvEjAWPz94k-NNc5QqaZ0iTVBkmcVhEvuW6BBQaL6x2ohsbVGMGeEw4>

Bees are integral to human existence. Like canaries in a mine, bees are prone to many environmental risks and are easily disrupted by human impacts such as climate change, disease, starvation and chemicals. Unlike canaries, bees are not captive and are free to forage from trees, gardens and verges on the edge of the road. My bees roam within a 5km radius of their hives.

Over the past few years I have become increasingly alarmed at the indiscriminate use of Glyphosate Based Herbicides (GBH) also known as 'Roundup', by our local councils and governments and for the past 6 months I have been contacting the Mayor as well as the Minister for Infrastructure, Jeremy Rockliff MP, highlighting my concerns, particularly around risk management, the recent successful lawsuits in United States and Tasmania's branding as a clean, green state. Coupled with a climate crisis, evidenced through this year's bushfires, the future for bees here is grim.

Key emerging issues

1. **GBH use is increasing significantly across the globe.**
2. **GBH residues are found in food.** This year, there will be a test that beekeepers and the general public can do to test for chemicals in honey. This will potentially destroy honey businesses throughout Tasmania and councils will get more pressure as urban farmers more broadly realise how this will impact their business models.
3. **Data from humans and laboratory animals indicate hazards associated with exposure.** Concerns about the carcinogenic properties of GBHs have increased after the World Health organization International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) re-classified glyphosate as 'probably carcinogenic to humans' in 2015. May 2019 marked the 3rd successful lawsuit against Monsanto. 1,300-1,400 lawsuits are waiting to be heard.
4. **Herbicide Resistance.** This is becoming a major issue for Agri-business, with organisations like the TFGA being contacted by organisations and individuals concerned about the growing problems associated with herbicide resistance.

I have joined Simon Mulvany on his campaign to raise awareness about this toxic product and attach some of the campaign material we have developed and are distributing through our extensive networks.

Brand Tasmania needs to know about the growing global concerns regarding this product, the impact on people, animals and the imminent threat to Tasmania's branding. I am happy to meet with you and brief you further on this campaign. Please feel free to contact me to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Regards

Jenni McLeod
Beautiful Girls Honey