



Clarence... a brighter place

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Office of the Mayor

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Ms Jenni McLeod
The Bee Collective

[REDACTED]
SOUTH ARM TAS 7022

Dear Ms McLeod

Thank you for your correspondence dated 15 June 2020 in regard to the development of a no spray register for the Clarence municipality; and your correspondence dated 26 June 2020 in regard to your updated report on glyphosate in light of recent news regarding Bayer's litigation settlement in the United States of America.

Development of a no spray register for Clarence

The development of the no spray register is being progressed by the Asset Management group within council and has involved input from the Open Space group, Workplace Health and Safety Coordinators, Risk Management, Legal and Operations. The scope and development of such a register has been guided by the relevant code of practice, state legislation and other examples of no spray registers currently in operation in Tasmania and on the mainland. Specifically, the *Code of Practice for Spraying in Public Places* (DPIPWE 2014) Section 2.26 details the principle that property owners can request the Council to desist from spraying the frontages of their properties and outlines the process for how this is to be managed. As this is an operational matter guided by the Code of Practice, there are no plans for community engagement on the policy at this stage. However, the first year of implementation will be undertaken as a trial to further report back to council on its application and feedback.

At this stage the draft no spray register policy is under final review before presenting to a Council workshop and then depending on the outcome of this, to a council meeting for adoption.

Glyphosate Briefing Paper (June 2020 version) and example of overseas litigation

Thank you for providing an updated version of your glyphosate briefing paper in response to recent news relating to Bayer's settlement of litigation cases in the USA.

I refer you to previous correspondence dated 4 March 2019 that outlines Council procedures for when it applies glyphosate-based herbicides as part of its management of parks, reserves, infrastructure and weed management programs.

The current advice from Department for Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) the administrator of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995* remains that there is no intention to restrict the use of glyphosate products while used in accordance with the product label.

Council will continue to monitor alternative products and weed management techniques as they become available in order to reduce our reliance on glyphosate-based herbicides where possible. Glyphosate-based herbicides when used according to the product label are still considered to be the most cost-effective and safest method of managing vegetation. Several alternatives to glyphosate are being assessed for suitability for council use but some of the issues to overcome are that they are generally more expensive, results are variable and alternative (organic herbicide) products still present similar risks to the user and public as glyphosate-based herbicides that need to be addressed.

Council has a responsibility to maintain safe and healthy environments and communities and is aware of the changing community values in regard to the use of glyphosate-based herbicides. As such council will be motivated to plan for a reduced herbicide future and consider alternatives to glyphosate in a measured, safe and cost-effective manner for this reason alone and not any perceived risk from overseas litigation cases which are not overly relevant to our context.

I trust this has addressed your enquiry in regard to the progress of the no spray register and council's position on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides in line with the current advice and the investigation of alternatives.

Yours sincerely



Alderman Doug Chipman
MAYOR