

# BACKGROUND BRIEFING

## ‘Roundup’ a Glyphosate Based Herbicide(GBH)



### 2015:

StateCover (Australia) Local Government’s Workers Compensation Insurer releases a WHS factsheet –use of ‘Roundup’ (a Glyphosate Based Herbicide-GBH). In the document the Insurer cites recent findings from the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) announcing that ‘Roundup’ and similar products were assessed as *probably carcinogenic to humans*. The Insurer recommends *Councils take a cautious approach and investigate their use of glyphosate and other hazardous chemicals used for weed control*. The Insurer is signalling they will not cover any future claims.

### March 2017:

The Australian Pesticides Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) re-releases its Final regulatory position: Consideration of the evidence for a formal reconsideration of glyphosate. In the report, the APVMA concludes, *the scientific weight of evidence indicates that exposure to glyphosate does not pose a carcinogenic or genotoxic risk to humans*.

<https://apvma.gov.au/node/26561>

### 2017-2018:

The Monsanto Papers are released confirming every ghost written paper the company produced; these documents were used as part of the weight of evidence findings that our own Australian Pesticides Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) uses to state that Roundup is safe.

<https://corporateeurope.org/food-and-agriculture/2018/03/what-monsanto-papers-tell-us-about-corporate-science>

### June 2018:

Carey Gillam releases her book ‘Whitewash-the Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer and the Corruption of Science.’

September 2018: Dewayne Johnson, a former Groundskeeper at a District school in the US, is the first person to take Monsanto to trial after using a GBH for years, contracts Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Johnson wins and paves the way for thousands of lawsuits.

[www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/dewayne-johnson-v-monsanto-company/](http://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/dewayne-johnson-v-monsanto-company/)

### March 2019:

Harrell’s, a major Insurer in the US, confirms *it is no longer willing to provide coverage for claims related to glyphosate due to the recent high-profile lawsuit and the many thousands of lawsuits since*.

## 10 QUESTIONS for your local council



- 1 Why is our council still using Glyphosate Based Herbicides (GBH)?
- 2 What is the risk management plan in place for community, staff and workers when GBH is sprayed?
- 3 How is GBH use communicated to the community?
- 4 Where can I find the Safety Data Sheet of the GBH product in use?
- 5 Why isn’t the Council using dye to indicate where it has been spraying?
- 6 What is the Council’s GBH and other herbicide spraying schedule?
- 7 Where can I find the Council’s maintain a ‘no spray register’ and ‘adverse affects’ register?
- 8 How is the spray site contained given glyphosate has an average half-life in soil of 47 days?
- 9 Does Council have an audit process around the use of chemicals, specifically GBHs and how can the wider community access this information?
- 10 Is Council considering alternatives to GBH for weed control?