

Dear _____

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as a concerned resident of _____, regarding the use of glyphosate, a widely used herbicide, and to urge the council to consider implementing a ban on its use within our community.

Health and Environmental Concerns

Numerous studies have raised serious concerns about the potential health risks associated with glyphosate exposure, including links to cancer, reproductive harm, and disruption of endocrine functions.

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic in humans," which raises significant alarm for public health. Furthermore, glyphosate is known to have detrimental effects on biodiversity, harming beneficial insects, soil health, and aquatic ecosystems.

As our community strives to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship, it is essential to consider the long-term impacts of allowing this chemical to be used in our parks, gardens, and agricultural practices.

Legal Liability

In January, 2024 a jury handed down a \$2.25 billion verdict, including \$2 billion in punitive damages, against agrochemical giant Monsanto, according to the lawyers of a man who said he developed cancer from using the company's weed killer, Roundup.¹

Not only is the health of council workers and contractors at risk from exposure but also people and pets. Council currently erects no signage where glyphosate has been applied. Glyphosate has a half life of 60 days, meaning it persists in the soil for a long time.

Can council provide documentation and testing to community members that the maximum safe exposure for both animals and humans including young children is always met?

Safer and environmentally friendly alternatives

Steam weed control is a chemical-free alternative to traditional weed control using herbicides. The method involves applying superheated saturated steam under high pressure to weed infestations and is an ideal alternative to traditional weed control along footpaths, kerbs, selected landscaped and streetscaped areas as well as around schools and offices. This method of weed control uses water only,

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/01/27/roundup-monsanto-bayer-cancer-claim/>

it is safe for use in public areas, has no lasting effects on the environment and can be applied in all weather conditions. ⁱ

Several countries and municipalities have banned or restricted the use of glyphosate, including:

- **Belgium, France, and the Netherlands**
Have banned glyphosate for household use

- **Germany**

Has banned glyphosate from public use and plans to ban it by the end of 2023

- **Australia**

Some states have banned glyphosate, including Cook Shire Council, Fairfield City Council, Georges River Council, Moyne Shire, and Warrnambool City Council

- **United States**

Some states have prohibited or restricted the use of Roundup on public property, including New York. Many cities and counties in California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and Washington have also banned or limited glyphosate

- **Other countries**

Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, India, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Oman, Qatar, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam

Community Support for a Ban

Many residents are increasingly concerned about the safety of our local environment and the health of our families. A ban on glyphosate would demonstrate our commitment to protecting public health and the integrity of our ecosystems. Additionally, many communities across the country and around the world have successfully implemented similar bans, leading to healthier environments and greater community well-being and biodiversity.

Studies

Toxic effects of glyphosate on the nervous system: a systematic review ⁱⁱ
Probable carcinogenicity of glyphosateⁱⁱⁱ

Conclusion

I respectfully request that the council take this matter seriously and consider drafting a resolution to ban glyphosate within our community. I believe that this action would not only protect our residents but also position yourself as a leader in sustainable practices and public health advocacy.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response and hope to see proactive measures taken for the health of our community.

Sincerely,

-
- i <https://naturalarea.com.au/environmental-management/steam-weed-control/>
 - ii <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9101768/>
 - iii <https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l1613>