



18 September 2018

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*Sent to CEOs and CEO PAs*

Dear colleague

**Glyphosate**

The MAV has been approached by a number of councils requesting advice and clarification of our position in relation to the use of products containing glyphosate. The queries have primarily been prompted by an August 2018 Californian Superior Court ruling that Monsanto was liable in a lawsuit filed by a man who alleged the company's glyphosate-based weed-killers, including Roundup, caused his cancer.

Glyphosate is registered for use in Australia by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) which is an Australian government statutory authority. APVMA information in relation to glyphosate can be located at the following link: <https://apvma.gov.au/node/13891>. Recent updates to the APVMA website indicate that they are aware of the Californian court decision and remain of the view that APVMA approved products containing glyphosate can continue to be used safely according to label directions. Australian law requires appropriate warnings on product labels, which include relevant poisons scheduling, first aid, and safety directions.

We recommend that councils review the information contained on the APVMA site regarding glyphosate and ensure that if they use products containing glyphosate that the label instructions are followed and that staff have appropriate training, equipment and any necessary personal protective equipment is used.

Where councils engage contractors to use products containing glyphosate it is recommended that council require that the contractor:

- only use herbicides registered for use in Australia and APVMA approved
- follow all instructions/directions provided on labels of any products used, including all safety directions
- ensure that those using the products have appropriate training in the use of the products
- ensure that those using the products use personal protective/safety equipment recommended on the label
- have appropriate insurance including public liability insurance
- provide an indemnity in favour of the council

WorkSafe's glyphosate herbicides information sheet, last updated in June 2017, remains current.

The MAV contact is Claire Dunn.

Warm regards

Kerry  
Kerry Thompson | Chief Executive Officer