

**From:** Shirley Collins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 March 2018 11:17 PM  
**To:** Legislation  
**Subject:** Submission to Local Government Act Review

To: the Minister for Local Government, Hon David Templeman

Please accept my submission to the Review of the Local Government Act, Phase 1 modernising local government, due 9/3/18.

Subject: STOP THE POISONS

As a spokesperson for the community-based consumer group Foodwatch WA, my focus is on health and environmental safety.

Shires and Councils are currently spraying Agvet chemical toxins in built-up areas & near waterways, giving people and pets little or no chance to avoid exposure to the airborne pollutants or surface sprays. Harm to public health is exacerbated by Federal Regulators increasing toxins on and in food. Ref: M1015 Maximum Residue Levels from a number of applicants including The Big Six chemical corporations (Monsanto, Bayer, Syngenta, Dupont/Dow, BASF) and US Big Food companies.

[http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/M1015Maximum-Residue-Limits-\(2017\).aspx](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/M1015Maximum-Residue-Limits-(2017).aspx)

Astonishingly, Local Government spraying programs are currently proceeding (1) in the absence of policy, hence without justification, and (2) in an unsafe manner, as breaches of the APVMA regulations and label specifications are repeatedly observed and reported by the public.

Poisoning of citizens and environment can and must stop. The Health Budget blowout is unsustainable. There are safer, cheaper, better weed treatments available today.

- Electronic availability of information.
  1. Truck routes of glyphosate-resistant Roundup Ready GM canola should be published and roadsides cleaned up by other methods than glyphosate spraying. RR weeds are immune to glyphosate, and the seed bed from repeated drenching in glyphosate only serves to exacerbate glyphosate-resistant weed burden.
  2. Weed management PPP (policy, procedures, practices) with chemical formulations, target weed, spraying schedule & audit schedule should be publically available.
- Meeting public expectations for accountability, including gift disclosures.
  3. There should be formal broad community consultation and education on LG responsibilities since the GM crop moratorium was lifted.
  4. Why the glyphosate spraying zealotry? There is mounting evidence of harm from peer-reviewed research such as that by Seralini and Carasco. Also "The Monsanto Papers", internal communications revealed as evidence under oath in the hundreds of lawsuits currently progressing through US courts, that detail evidence of harm which the company then proceeds to conceal. Ref: US investigative journalist Carey Gillam draws from this evidence and witness statements in her book "Whitewash; Story of A Weed Killer, Cancer, and The Corruption of Science" and in addressing the EU Parliament Oct 2017:  
<https://usrtk.org/pesticides/carey-gillams-presentation-to-european-parliament-hearing-on-the-monsanto-papers-glyphosate/>
- Meeting community expectations of standards, ethics and performance.
  5. Independent scientific / technical evidence is required in the public interest. Regulators are currently discrediting and ignoring peer-reviewed and published scientific papers when they have no legitimate reason to do so.

6. Proper cost benefit analysis of weed management.
- Building capacity through reducing red tape.
7. Appropriate Quality Systems should be implemented e.g. a centralised incident reporting system, easily accessible to the public, the staff, the administrators, the lawmakers and the overseers.
8. Incidents should be investigated and resolved in a professional manner. Simply ignoring the problems does not make them go away.
9. Checks and balances important to public safety must not be compromised. E.g. chemicals used by Local Government must not contain illegal contaminants such as Dioxins:  
<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/e66156a9-a7ac-4bc9-b256-5cf41daaaed1/files/report-12.pdf>

Ref: <https://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/LegislationCompliance/Pages/LGARReview.aspx>

Yours sincerely,  
Shirley Collins

