

May 26th 2026



nomoreglyphosate.nz

Kia ora [redacted]

I refer to your request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) concerning herbicide use dated May 5th 2026. Please see Council's response to your questions below:

**1. What herbicide or weed control products are currently used in public spaces?**

The herbicides and weed control products currently used in public spaces most commonly include glyphosate, metsulfuron, and organosilicon surfactants. Less frequently, products such as picloram and haloxyfop are applied. For targeted control of specific pest plant species, additional herbicides may be used, including triclopyr, mecoprop, and dicamba, as well as pre-emergent treatments like pendimethalin and prodiamine.

**2. Where are these products typically applied, and how frequently are these areas treated?**

Glyphosate is used across a range of council-managed areas for vegetation control and maintenance. Key locations include parks and reserves, where it is applied to control vegetation around hard surfaces, manage pest plants, and undertake spot spraying within garden beds and other planted or vegetated areas. It is also used for roadside spraying to manage vegetation around kerbs and traffic islands, excluding designated "no spray zones," as well as across other council-owned and managed land.

In addition, glyphosate is used at operational sites such as transfer stations and closed landfill areas, where vegetation control is necessary for maintenance and safety. Its application also extends to water and drainage infrastructure, including swales, drains, planted areas, and pump stations.

The most common applications occur along edges adjacent to hard surfaces and around fixtures such as bollard, signs, markers and barriers. Less frequently, targeted spraying is undertaken in specific areas, including sites affected by Onehunga weed and coastal dunes, where it is used to remove non-dune species.

More occasional use occurs on sports fields to control broadleaf weeds, as well as along park margins to manage pest plants.

### **3. What policies or guidelines govern herbicide use in public spaces?**

Herbicide use in public spaces is governed by a combination of regional, national, and local regulations. The Waikato Regional Plan (WRP), particularly Section 6.2, controls the discharge of agrichemicals to land, air, and water, allowing their use only where conditions are met to minimise environmental and human health risks; otherwise, resource consent is required. [WRP – Section 6](#)

TCDC manages herbicide use in public spaces primarily through its vegetation management practices, roadside spraying programme, and No-Spray Register policy. TCDC uses herbicides (e.g., for roadside berms and public land) as part of its regular vegetation management programme to control weeds and maintain safety and access. [Roadside Weed Spraying Policy | TCDC](#)

Residents can request that herbicides are not sprayed outside their property by joining the No-Spray Register (opt-out system). If they opt out, they must maintain the berm/roadside area themselves, including controlling weeds and preventing spread to public land. If maintenance is not adequate, the council may step in and carry out work (including spraying) if necessary. [No-Spray Register | TCDC](#)

Council requires contractors to follow Environmental Protection Authority rules for hazardous substances, use trained operators, and apply herbicides safely to minimise spray drift and environmental impact. [Glyphosate rules and regulation | EPA](#)

### **4. When was the current approach to herbicide use in public spaces last formally reviewed?**

The current approach to herbicide use in public spaces was last formally reviewed in 2018 during the development of the Road Operations and Maintenance Contract 2019–2025 (C18/25) between TCDC and Ventia, which was implemented in 2019. Council follows the Environmental Protection Authority rules and regulations for the use of herbicides and keeps abreast of public discussion concerning the impacts of herbicides on people and the environment, particularly glyphosate.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Services