

Agricultural Chemical Use in Public Places Policy

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| Strategic Pillar | Community, Arts and Recreation |
| Responsible Branch | Urban Landscapes |

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1 OUTCOMES

- 1.1 To provide guidance on the appropriate use of agricultural chemicals in public places
- 1.2 To facilitate a proactive reduction in non-essential chemical use
- 1.3 To reduce Council's exposure to public liability claims

2 POLICY

- 2.1 QPRC manage and maintain a significant area of public parks, sporting facilities, bushland reserves and public open space. To maintain these lands in a safe and functional manner requires a large volume of manual and mechanised operations, carefully balanced against tight budgetary constraints.
- 2.2 The careful and targeted use of agricultural chemicals plays an important role in maintaining these public places
- 2.3 Council uses agricultural chemicals in public places, within strict guidelines and legislative frameworks
- 2.4 Where economically and environmentally viable, Council will explore and utilise, non-chemical, alternate mean to maintain public open space.
- 2.5 Council will only treat native/endemic termite or ant nests where there is a direct risk to people or property.

3 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 3.1 This policy covers all council owned or managed public parks, sports facilities, bushland reserves and other public open space throughout the QPRC Local Government area.
- 3.2 This policy does not cover private land

4 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 Agricultural Chemical — includes all chemical based products registered for control/treatment of weeds and pests, including but not limited to, Herbicides, Insecticides, Fungicides, Algicides
- 4.2 Public Places — includes all parks, sports facilities, public gardens, reserves, crownlands, nature strips, road reserves and other public open space owned or managed by QPRC.

5 LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

- 5.1 This policy is bound by the requirements of the following legislation
 - Pesticides Act 1999
 - Pesticides Regulation 2017
 - Local Government Act 1993
 - Crown Lands Management Act 2016
 - Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- 5.2 QPRC Pesticide Notification Plan applies to use of pesticides in a public place.

6 CONTENT

- 6.1 Council will utilise agricultural chemicals, within the appropriate legislative framework, to minimise maintenance costs and maximise pest management throughout public open space across the QPRC LGA.

- 6.2 Council will wherever possible, trial alternate options and where feasible, minimise the use of agricultural chemicals and seek alternate, non-chemical pest management.
- 6.3 Periodically, native species which play an important ecological role in the bush, do pose a risk to public in an urban environment. EG: Termites, ants, etc. In each case, council will conduct a risk assessment and only treat those nests where a significant risk is imposed on people or property.
- 6.4 Council will wherever feasible, avoid the use of glyphosate based products in public places and systematically eliminate the use of Glyphosate from its operations when alternate approved methods become available.

7 REVIEW

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier as necessary if:
 - a) legislation requires it, or
 - b) Council's functions, structure or activities change