

27 August 2020

LGOIMA No. 8140007202
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

J Bruning

Sent by email: fyi-request-13413-5d061f03@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Jodie

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987

Foamstream and Glyphosate use

I refer to your request dated 29 July 2020 asking for information Auckland Council holds on the use of Foamstream and Glyphosate.

The details of your request and our response is below.

“Please can you supply emails, reports, analyses, memos or submissions:

1. Relating to the risk of foam technologies, such as FoamStream, including discussion of ingredients used in the foam solution: including sugar and plant oil.”

By way of background, any herbicide considered for use on public land must:

- meet contractual specifications
- be compliant with all Auckland Unitary Plan rules
- have approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Foamstream is approved for use in parks in Auckland, however approval for use within the road corridor has additional criteria reflecting the different infrastructure, such as stormwater.

Foamstream in the road corridor

As part of continuous improvement and best practice, Auckland Council’s contractors investigated non-agrichemical weed control methods including Foamstream and its potential for use in the road corridor. Please find attached:

- Otara-Papatoetoe Weed Management Memo January 2019

Before Foamstream could be used, the following needed to be established:

- Risk of mobilization of pollutants in the road corridor from the foam including hydrocarbons

- Compliance with the [Unitary Plan 2016](#), specifically sections E34 - Agrichemicals and vertebrate toxic agents, E4 - Other discharges of contaminants and E8 - Stormwater Discharge and diversion

Investigations into the use of Foamstream in the road corridor were conducted. Please find attached

- Staff advice on application for approval to import or manufacture Foamstream V4, Environmental Protection Agency, August 2018
- Foamstream assessment, August 2019
- Foamstream assessment - further information, September 2019

Following investigations, it was proposed that Foamstream be trialed. Please find attached:

- Foamstream V4 Trial Letter from Auckland Council to Auckland Transport November 2019
- Trial of Foamstream for the management of weeds in the road corridor memo February 2020

Earlier this year a trial of Foamstream application was conducted. A condition for the use of Foamstream was that it is not to be applied during rainfall. This is to mitigate the risk of foam being discharged into the stormwater which is not permitted under the Unitary Plan. During the period of the trial Healthy Waters Lifecycle Teams monitored the stormwater to ensure there was no foam discharged into the stormwater network or any mobilization of pollutants.

At this stage a memo is being prepared for the Local Board on the outcome of the trial and Healthy Waters recommendations for its ongoing use within the road corridor. The memo is due to be release in September 2020.

2. Relating to the risk of glyphosate formulations.

The council's herbicide use is guided by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has granted approval for the use of glyphosate-containing substances in accordance with their code of practice. Please refer to the [latest communication](#) from the EPA.

In 2017 council requested a review of commercially available glyphosate options to ensure we were using the least toxic glyphosate product for weed management. Please find attached:

- Glyphosate Options Prepared for Auckland Council, 2017
- Project Streetscapes, Weed management memo, 2018
 - Attachment A - Examples of vegetation in the road corridor
 - Attachment B - Weed Control Methodology Table
 - Attachment C – Weed management policy


Note that certain items have been withheld under section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 would be likely unreasonably prejudice to the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

The decision by Auckland Council to release the information contained in this response was made by Jennifer Rose, Head of Business and Performance - Community Facilities.

I hope you find this information useful. Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request you have the right to seek a review of the decision from the Ombudsman.

If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140007202.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fernanda Maciel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

Fernanda Maciel
Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner
Democracy Services