



**Deputy Premier of Western Australia
Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs**

Our Ref: 25-06632

Mr Wayne Monks
Chairperson
Western Region Environment Network (WREN)
wmonks@westnet.com.au

Dear Mr Monks

I refer to your e-mailed follow-up letter of 4 July 2009 in which you express concerns with my earlier responses to your letters.

I note, with disappointment, your complete rejection of the planned developments in policy and guidance notes to support the safe use of pesticides by local government. However, I do intend to proceed with these initiatives.

Your objective that herbicide use should be phased out in suburban areas is neither desirable nor feasible. If there were objective data to support your contention that pesticides are a serious present risk to the health of the community, then there would be grounds for the action you propose, but the current data available does not support your stance. Large sections of the community use herbicides on their private land and would not support this option being denied to them without objective evidence that the risks outweigh the benefits.

It is possible to use pesticides safely. The very small number of adverse effects potentially due to pesticides is testimony to the fact that around 25,000 people in Western Australia have been voluntarily trained in the safe and effective use of pesticides by the independent training organisation, ChemCert WA.

The approach taken by the Government will continue to be one that supports the safe use of pesticides and encourages community input into local decisions about pesticide use.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kim Hames MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH
27 JUL 2009