

Tuesday, 15th December 2009

City of Nedlands Council Meeting

Alexandra Jones :Address deleted

Questions regarding the call for a review of biocides (pesticides, herbicides and fungicides) used by the City of Nedlands

Question 1. Does the 28th November Post Newspaper article by Linda Callaghan exemplify the obfuscation that exists in regard to the use of herbicides in our suburbs?

QUESTION 2. How does Council intend to determine which herbicide was used on the foreshore in view of the “typographical error” and the altering of the document?

According to the same Post article, Charles Court Reserve was sprayed with a boom -spray and 6.66 hectares were sprayed on the 25th September.

QUESTION 3. Is the Council aware of the warnings issued by the manufacturer of Spearhead that “Diflufenican half life varies from 15 to 30 weeks depending on soil type and water content. MCPA – duration of residual activity in soil is c. 3 to 4 months following an application of 3 kg/ha”, and has it assessed the risk of this, when combined with other products, to the aquatic life in our Swan River before spraying 6.66 hectares of foreshore reserve?

QUESTION 4. Is the Council aware that the manufacturer of Spearhead recommends that “Hand-weeding and transplanting should not be performed before 2 weeks after spray application, unless workers wear overalls (or equivalent clothing) and chemical resistant gloves” and has it considered the obvious consequences and public liability to the sporting bodies and general public using the playing fields?

QUESTION 5. Does the Bushland Maintenance tender also involve the use of herbicides for the treatment of weeds and if so which herbicides are used?

QUESTION 6. Do the community bushland carers also receive funding to treat weeds with herbicides and if so which herbicides are used?

QUESTION 7. Will Council take the lead and, as a matter of urgency, undertake an audit of current practices and adopt the controls introduced by the governments of Quebec and Ontario as the benchmark for best practice in the management of our public open spaces?

Alex Jones

www.saveoutrees.net