

FRIENDS of Banks Peninsula Inc.

P.O. Box 56, Duvauchelle, Banks Peninsula, Canterbury



28 June 2020

Submission to the Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan 2020-21

To whom it may concern,

We are representing many residents and rate payers of Akaroa and the greater Banks Peninsula, who are extremely concerned about the use of chemical herbicides along the roads, drains, parks, playgrounds, pass ways etc in our area.

The overused Glyphosate based herbicide has been linked to many hormonal dysfunctions, celiac disease, depression and cerebral dysfunctions. Research has proven that Glyphosate is also widely found in our food chain and is a very serious threat to our ecosystems, biodiversity, insects and aquatic life. Glyphosate has been banned in many countries due to its risks and some cities have taken the initiative and adopted alternative techniques with great success: natural fatty acid based herbicides, steam, hot water or mowing drains, mulching trees and planting with ground cover areas instead of spraying. Thousands of kilometres of drains could become potential biodiversity niches if managed properly and wisely mowed. We would like to support non-chemical and integrated weed management practices and would implore the Christchurch City Council to take this matter very seriously. We ask that Christchurch City Council reconsider its decision to use Glyphosate based herbicides around parks, schools, road sides, public and non-public areas.

As much as we understand the need for the Council to save money and reorganise finances in response to the Covid-19 crisis, we strongly believe that going back to using potentially carcinogen chemicals is not a move in the right direction. The health and safety of our communities and environment should always come first and the use of glyphosate is simply a false economy. A strong economy relies on a strong and healthy community. There is an opportunity to look at different methods and to create 'greener' jobs, and we feel that safer alternatives should be explored as the Council is working towards more sustainable options with other initiatives it has underway. A New Zealand company, based in Nelson, is manufacturing and marketing natural vinegar based herbicides, which have been used on different weeds with great success. We suggest the Council work closely with such companies and one product we would recommend is called WEEDX. More information can be found on their website <https://www.naturalherbicide.co.nz/>

We would also like to inform the Christchurch City Council that we are available to assist and advise the contractors regarding proven and safe weed management methods. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

'Regenerate' Subcommittee
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