



AGENDA

INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

12 NOVEMBER 2018

MEMBERSHIP: Councillors J Diffey, V Etheridge, D Grant, D Gumley, A Jones, S Lawrence, G Mohr, K Parker, J Ryan and B Shields.

The meeting is scheduled to commence at _____ pm.

	Page
ICRC18/87 REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE - MEETING 8 OCTOBER 2018 (ID18/1665)	2
The Committee had before it the report of the Infrastructure, Community and Recreation Committee meeting held 8 October 2018.	
ICRC18/88 ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE FOR COUNCIL OPERATIONS (ID18/1586)	5
The Committee had before it the report dated 22 October 2018 from the Manager Operations regarding Alternatives to the Use of Glyphosate for Council Operations.	



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Infrastructure, Community and Recreation Committee - meeting 8 October 2018

AUTHOR: Governance Team Leader
REPORT DATE: 6 November 2018

The Committee had before it the report of the Infrastructure, Community and Recreation Committee meeting held 8 October 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Infrastructure, Community and Recreation Committee meeting held on 8 October 2018, be noted.



**REPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNITY AND
RECREATION COMMITTEE
8 OCTOBER 2018**

PRESENT: Councillors B Shields, J Diffey, V Etheridge, D Grant, D Gumley, A Jones, S Lawrence, G Mohr, K Parker and J Ryan.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

The Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Manager Governance and Internal Control (S Wade), the Administrative Officer Governance, the Community Support Officer, the Director Corporate Services, the Director Economic Development and Business (J Angus), the Communications Coordinator, the Director Infrastructure and Operations, the Director Planning and Environment (S Jennings), and the Director Community and Recreation.

Councillor S Lawrence assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 5.34pm.

**ICRC18/84 REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE - MEETING 10 SEPTEMBER 2018 (ID18/1501)**

The Committee had before it the report of the Infrastructure, Community and Recreation Committee meeting held 10 September 2018.

Moved by Councillor G Mohr and seconded by Councillor A Jones

MOTION

That the report of the Infrastructure, Community and Recreation Committee meeting held on 10 September 2018, be noted.

CARRIED

ICRC18/85 PROPOSED WALKWAY CLOSURE BETWEEN DAVIDSON DRIVE AND GREGORY COURT DUBBO (ID18/1485)

The Committee had before it the report dated 21 September 2018 from the Manager Infrastructure Delivery regarding Proposed Walkway Closure Between Davidson Drive and Gregory Court Dubbo.

Moved by Councillor B Shields and seconded by Councillor K Parker

MOTION

1. That Council consent to the closure of this walkway between Davidson Drive and Gregory Court Dubbo.
2. That it be noted that the road, pursuant to section 38(2) of the Roads Act, the land will vest in Council upon closure.
3. That an application be made to close the walkway, and the property to be sold to adjacent land owners (Mr T J Haylock and Mr M J Mohammed).
4. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to complete any necessary documentation under delegated Power of Attorney.

CARRIED

ICRC18/86 DECLARATION OF DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AS A FOSSICKING DISTRICT (ID18/1509)

The Committee had before it the report dated 26 September 2018 from the Executive Manager Governance and Internal Control regarding Declaration of Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area as a Fossicking District.

Moved by Councillor B Shields and seconded by Councillor A Jones

MOTION

1. That the necessary steps be undertaken to gazette the Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area as a fossicking district.
2. That it be noted that approval not be granted for Council owned operational sites and construction sites to be subject to fossicking activities.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 5.35pm.

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CHAIRMAN



REPORT: Alternatives to the Use of Glyphosate for Council Operations

AUTHOR: Manager Operations
REPORT DATE: 22 October 2018
TRIM REFERENCE: ID18/1586

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 27 August 2018, Council resolved that a report investigating alternatives to the use of glyphosate be prepared.

Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide which works by inhibiting an enzyme found in plants. There are around 500 products containing glyphosate registered for use in Australia. Glyphosate has been registered for use for over 40 years (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority statement August 2018).

Glyphosate is registered for use in this country by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and its storage and application is undertaken by Council consistent with the chemical's label and recommended best practice.

A statement on the use of glyphosate by the APVMA can be found on their website <https://apvma.gov.au/node/13891>.

Glyphosate remains a key tool as a non-selective herbicide to address weed issues in multiple land management contexts across the local government area, which is one of the largest in the state.

There are limited options available to Council to replace the use of glyphosate across the complete range of land management contexts it is exposed to. However, there are some alternatives for targeted situations and these are being investigated and considered for use.

ORGANISATIONAL VALUES

Customer Focused: Council is looking at alternatives to glyphosate use in response to recent debate and will base decisions on evidence and provision of the best service Council can provide.

Integrity: Council is considering alternatives and working with suppliers toward evidence based decision making.

One Team: Different sections of Council are working together to progress this matter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the report by the Manager Operations, dated 22 October 2018, be noted.**
- 2. That the consideration of glyphosate alternatives continue and where appropriate trials take place to gather further evidence of applicability to Council's context.**

Craig Arms
Manager Operations

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 27 August 2018, Council resolved that a report investigating alternatives to the use of glyphosate be prepared.

Discussions around the appropriate use of glyphosate have been around for many years. It is an effective and cost efficient tool to address a broad range of weeds in an equally broad range of land management contexts. Alternatives to its use are limited with associated advantages and disadvantages for each. However, Council is open to investigating options to glyphosate where alternative measures are economical and treatment safe and effective. Some of the options available to Council are described below.

REPORT

Glyphosate Free Non-selective Chemical

These chemicals are typically made from so called 'organic' substances and typically function by affecting the outer coating of contacted plant and seed material causing damage and ultimately death.

There have been trials of glyphosate free chemical occurring recently in the Central West of NSW. Council arranged to meet the proprietors of '*LocalSafe Weed Terminator*' during the week ending 2 November 2018 to learn more about the product. Further information is being gathered and collated as to the effectiveness and operational suitability of this new product.

It is also proposed that meetings with representatives of other brands such as '*Bioweed Organic Herbicide Concentrate*' to discuss applicability to Council's context be undertaken in the near future.

Importantly, the use of these, and other similar products, will require a change in methodology, expectations, costings and application equipment when compared to glyphosate based products.

Non-chemical options

These tend to be applicable only for small scale application and are labour intensive. The most notable of these is steam application and mechanical removal/disruption. There is a place for their operation, however they are better suited to a support or follow up treatment rather than the primary control option.

In general terms, non-chemical treatments remove the weed from sight quickly, but tend to not kill the weed at the root source. So, in time the weed regrows and further treatment is required.

Council has trialled steam application two years ago but did not consider it a viable option to take forward. In a small scale urban context it is more efficient to ensure garden beds are

well mulched and tended to regularly. Nonetheless, Council is in contact with a manufacturer of steam weeding equipment with the aim of viewing a demonstration of current technology.

Flame weeding is an additional non-chemical option. They have commonly been used by some government agencies and contractors to control weeds as an alternative to using pesticides. These devices have been commonly available from many stores including hardware shops.

As flame throwers are referred to within the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service recently requested clarification from the NSW Firearms Registry if flame weeders fit within that definition. The NSW Firearms Registry provided confirmation that 'flame weeders' do indeed fall within the meaning of Clause 1A (3) of Schedule 1 to the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*, meaning that they are classified as a 'prohibited weapon'.

If flame weeders are required for weed control, then the government agency or contractor would require a permit for possession and use. They can do this by applying to the NSW Firearms Registry for a permit.

If any flame weeders are currently in possession by a government agency or contractor that does not possess a permit they should be immediately surrendered to the NSW Police. Council has no intention to use flame weeders for its operations.

Alternative Non-selective Herbicides

These are chemicals used principally in circumstances where weeds have developed resistance to glyphosate application. The most well-known are paraquat (Gramoxane) and paraquat/diquat combination, better known as 'Sprayseed'. They are extremely effective herbicides but are very toxic to humans. Both chemicals are Schedule 7 poisons, meaning they are substances with a high potential for causing harm at low exposure. Sprayseed in particular has caused deaths in Australia and only requires minimal contact to be fatal. It is only available to very experienced and qualified operators for use in highly controlled and highest priority circumstances. These chemicals are not an option for widespread glyphosate replacement.

SUMMARY

Glyphosate is registered for use in this country by the APVMA. It is an important broad-spectrum herbicide used by Council when managing weeds across its very large local government area.

In accordance with the *Pesticides Act 1999 and Pesticides Regulation 2017*, glyphosate is used by qualified Council staff and contractors consistent with the provisions of the chemical's label.

Alternatives exist but are not without debate in terms of practicality, cost efficiency and effectiveness. The use of these products will require a change in methodology, expectations, costings and application equipment when compared to glyphosate based products.

Council is open to using glyphosate alternatives in appropriate circumstances based on evidence and in consideration of a broad scale operational context. Council is considering options with the view to trialling some in the near future.