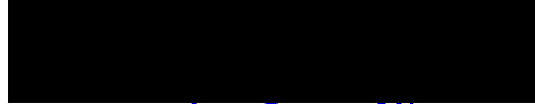


**Reference Number: 2026/1383**

18 May 2026



Tēnā Koe | Dear 

Thank you for your email dated 5 May 2026 requesting herbicide use in public spaces under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Please see below a response to each part of your request.

***What herbicide or weed control products are currently used in public spaces?***

Council currently uses the following herbicide products within public spaces:

- Glyphosate 360 – primarily used for edge and hard surface weed control, including around fence lines, kerbs, paths, and areas that are not suitable for mechanical maintenance methods.
- Picloram-based herbicide products – used selectively for broadleaf weed control within turf and lawn areas.

These products are used as part of Council's wider parks and open space maintenance programme to manage weeds, maintain safe access, and support the condition and usability of public spaces.

***Where are these products typically applied, and how frequently are these areas treated?***

Glyphosate 360 is typically applied to:

- Park edges and boundaries
- Fence lines
- Footpaths and hard surface areas
- Areas where mechanical weed control methods are not practical or effective

Applications are generally undertaken up to six times per year, depending on seasonal growth conditions and operational requirements.

Picloram-based herbicides are typically applied to turf and lawn areas where targeted broadleaf weed control is required, including:

- Sports fields
- Dog parks
- Playground reserve areas
- General amenity lawns

These applications are generally undertaken annually during October and November, as this timing aligns with the most effective period for broadleaf weed treatment and supports turf quality heading into the growing season.

***What policies or guidelines govern herbicide use in public spaces?***

Council's herbicide application practices are undertaken in accordance with relevant Growsafe standards and industry best practice guidelines relating to agrichemical use and management.

All staff and contractors undertaking herbicide application are required to hold appropriate Growsafe certification or equivalent qualifications. Applications are carried out in accordance with product label requirements, health and safety obligations, and environmental management considerations.

Council also considers operational effectiveness, public safety, environmental impacts, and asset maintenance requirements when determining weed management approaches across public spaces.

***When was the current approach to herbicide use in public spaces last formally reviewed?***

Council last undertook a detailed review and discussion regarding the use of Glyphosate and alternative weed control methods in 2020. This included consideration of alternative approaches being trialled by other local authorities, operational effectiveness, cost implications, and maintenance outcomes.

At that time, examples from other councils were reviewed, including councils that had moved away from Glyphosate-based products before subsequently returning to their use following operational and effectiveness challenges. This included examples such as Auckland Council and Christchurch City Council.

Following that review, Council continued with its existing approach, while ensuring applications remain controlled, targeted, and undertaken by qualified personnel in accordance with regulatory requirements and industry standards.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Brent Harvey (Group Manager Community Experience and Services) on [brenth@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:brenth@horowhenua.govt.nz), or [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi | Best regards



Ashley Huria  
**Executive Sponsor**