

**From:** [LGOIMA](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA Request - Weed management - Reference 1935 Friday, 17 May  
**Date:** 2024 2:28:54 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Kia ora [REDACTED],

We refer to your official information request dated 11 April 2024 for information. The information you have requested is below:

1. **Can you substantiate your assertion that natural weed matting is 'bad for the soil' with evidence?**  
Natural weed matting is an added cost to Council, is difficult to apply and use, and doesn't suppress the weeds the same as well as it can be easily damaged due to the weather, people or animals.
2. **I am hereby requesting official information under LGOIMA 1987 Section 21, namely:**
  - a. **Could you please provide me with any rules, policies, guidelines or any other instruments that were considered by the TDC for the decision to use a glyphosate-based product for the weed-management along the freshwater waterway (Motupipi Stream)**  
Council holds no policies, rules or guidelines on the use of products containing Glyphosate for weed management along freshwater waterways. Glyphosate has rules and regulations which are put in place by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)- [Protecting our way of life | EPA](#), Council follows and abides by these rules which are noted on the label of products containing Glyphosate. These rules are reviewed by EPA.
  - b. **Please also provide me with your internal documentation around [the process of weed management along the freshwater waterway], including any assessment that was made in regards to the social, economic, environmental and cultural costs and benefits of such products and, if considered, of alternative products without this particular ingredient.**

We have not located any internal documentation around the process of weed management along freshwater waterways, nor any assessments held by us with regards to the benefit of such products being used.

To confirm glyphosate is used around the plantings and not in or on the freshwater waterway. Reserves general guidelines for the use in the Reserves requires –

Where herbicides are used, this shall be carried out by an approved handler and in accordance with NZ: 8409: 2004 management of Agrichemicals. Any chemicals used shall be applied in accordance with the Manufactures recommendations.

The New Zealand Standard NZS8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals is an approved code of practice under the HSNO and ACVM Acts. It provides guidance to ensure that agrichemicals are used in a safe, responsible and effective manner, while minimising any adverse effects on the environment or human and animal health.

**Economic cost benefits**, - Herbicide use around new plantings reduce the labour costs of maintaining the plantings until canopy closure, this is generally a 3 year period until weeds are suppressed by the native growth.

**Environmental cost benefits** – the removal of noxious weeds, using herbicide, that inhibit native

plantings, particularly plants that cannot be effectively removed by mechanical means. The quick establishment of native species benefits the native bird and insect species and long term provides a low input and sustainable natural environment

**Social and cultural benefits-** developing and safeguarding the native environment has generational benefits, the scale of this work in the Tasman district, requires a practical and cost effective approach. Herbicide is one of the tools that provides effective weed control while native plants are developing, the long term social and cultural benefits for future generations would be significant.

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

If you want to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Legal and Democracy Services team on [lgoima@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:lgoima@tasman.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely  
Legal Services Officer

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