

8 June 2023

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-2951



Tēnā koe 

### **Request for information 2023-116**

I refer to your request for information dated 10 May 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 10 May 2023. You have requested the following:

*“What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to areas of wood chip or bark mulch on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?”*

*What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to grass areas on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?*

*What steps are undertaken to notify the public about areas that have been sprayed?*

*Does the council spray any areas as a response to the growth of illegal (psilocybin containing) mushrooms?”*

#### **Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

- 1. What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to areas of wood chip or bark mulch on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?*

Greater Wellington applies chemicals Glyphosate 360, Silmaxx and Boost Penetrant to road edges, track edges and garden edges to control weeds. We do not target bark mulched areas within our council managed parks and reserves.

2. *What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to grass areas on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)*

The Parks and Pest Plants teams do not spray grassed areas for general weed control. However, some grassed areas that are being retired and planted with natives will be sprayed to prevent weed competition with native plantings using Glufosinate.

3. *What steps are undertaken to notify the public about areas that have been sprayed?*

Notification of spraying within public land is done in several ways:

- Annually, a public notification goes into the newspaper about spray activities the council are undertaking.
- Signage is used during the operation explaining what is being sprayed and what chemicals are being used, and any hazards associated with the activity.
- Signage will stay in place if a withholding period is required to notify public of the risk.

4. *Does the council spray any areas as a response to the growth of illegal (psilocybin containing) mushrooms?*

Greater Wellington does not undertake spraying in response to the growth of psilocybin containing mushrooms.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Lian Butcher**

Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Rōpū Taiao | Group Manager, Environment