



**Far North  
District Council**



# **TŪHONOTANGA MINITI ATTACHMENTS MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**14 November 2024**

# Te Paeroa Kaupapa / Table of Contents

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4.1	Tabled at meeting		
	Attachment 1	John Aiken and Serena Anderton Deputation Attachment Document number A4981574 refers. ....	3
	Attachment 2	Gail Aiken and Debbie Abbas Deputation Attachment document number A4981571 refers. ....	5
7.1	Mayor and Councillor's Reports		
	Attachment 1	Member Report - Cr Tāmāti Rākēna.....	6
	Attachment 2	Member Report - Cr Steve McNally .....	8

## Deputation from Hokianga Environmental Group to Far North District Council on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Subject: Roadside and amenities management using glyphosate (round up) and other chemical herbicides**

### Request to FNDC

- *That council undertake a 12 month trial of increased mowing instead of glyphosate spray in Rawene from the Rawene junction into and including the township.*
- *That the trial is undertaken with community representation with the purpose of determining what would be needed to meet the weed management requirements using mostly mechanical methods that are not detrimental to either human health or the environment, with a view to implementing this around Hokianga and the rest of Far North District.*
- *That the trial include roadsides, footpaths and other amenity areas that are the responsibility of FNDC and that the departments responsible for these different functions liaise and co-operate for the trial.*
- *Our understanding is that a trial would cost around \$9,500*

### Background:

- Many people from across the Far North District, including many tangata whenua, are concerned about the impact of toxic herbicides on both human health and the environment. This is not just a concern around Rawene as has been suggested but also across the Far North as evidenced by another group speaking to this topic today.
- That Rawene wants to be Spray Free is in the Community Plan.
- Hokianga Environmental Group has tried previously to address this with council, most recently when the Hokianga (No) Spray group was established back in 2021. This group, made up of Community Board and Community members, did not manage to achieve our desired outcome of a trial but we want to work positively with council to finish this project.

### Concerns:

We have two main areas of concern about the current, glyphosate based, weed management approach:

1. The impact of glyphosate on human health
2. The impact of glyphosate on the environment particularly soil life and aquatic life

#### 1. The impact of glyphosate on human health

- There is strong evidence that glyphosate is carcinogenic to humans and is also an endocrine disruptor and has other health implications.
- In the US there is a lawsuit against Monsanto who produce Roundup for the cancer it has caused. To date Monsanto have settled (often before trial) in around 100,000 lawsuits and around 54,000 lawsuits remain with new cases still being filed. In October 2024, in [one case](#), Monsanto had to pay \$3 million in compensation and \$75 million in damages.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that out of 2,310 urine samples, taken from a group of Americans intended to be representative of the US population, 1,885 were laced with detectable traces of glyphosate.









