

From: [Mike Edmonds](#)
To: [Alan Hessel](#); [Louis Toorenborg](#); [Emma Davis](#); [Marlema Baker](#)
Subject: Fw: Rawene Cemetery - use of glyphosate
Date: Thursday, 20 January 2022 3:54:20 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Green Man GKC info sheet.pdf](#)
[Green Man BioHerbicide label.JPG](#)

As referred to in the previous email. Marlema, can you forward this, too?

Thanks



Mike Edmonds

Chairperson

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From: Nina Gobie <Nina.Gobie@fndc.govt.nz>
Sent: 14 January 2022 16:16
To: Mike Edmonds <Mike.Edmonds@fndc.govt.nz>
Subject: Rawene Cemetery - use of glyphosate

Kia ora Mike

RSL are contracted to spray in and around Rawene (excluding the Roding areas) and if moving away from glyphosate and using one of the many bio spray products it is expected an increase will be needed to the spraying frequency which would at a minimum, double what is currently specified in the contract. As such, any changes will as you can imagine result in increased costs esp. to product, labour and travel.

I have attached some reading material sent from RSL on the proposed alternative RSL would consider using, i.e.: Green Man Bio-herbicide.

Below is also a table highlighting the differences and costs associated with glyphosate vs. bio spray product (mainly focused on the Rawene Cemetery):

GLYPHOSATE	BIO SPRAY PRODUCTS	MANUAL LABOUR
Can be sprayed on wet grass, before a light shower and on dull days etc	Must be sprayed on dry grass and be exposed to several hours of sunlight with the recommended spraying time being between 10am and 3pm	Not spraying, it is estimated it would take an extra man 2 days per month with a weed eater (and vehicle) at a cost of \$800 per month. This could still result in an

		unsatisfactory result to areas such as the gravel carparks and the top of graves particularly older ones with cracked concrete caps etc.
Currently sprayed every 12 weeks	<p>Recommend at a minimum using every 6 weeks to try and replicate the die back that is currently achieved using glyphosate</p> <p>Also recommend documenting results to ensure it is satisfactory before committing to an alternative product e.g.: photograph area each week after spraying to monitor progress, time frame and results.</p>	
Rawene Cemetery requires approximately 150ltr of mixed spray which contains 1.125ltr of glyphosate	150 litres of mixed spray (bio spray and connector) requires 6 litres of product cost approx. \$210	
To do all of Rawene as per the RSL contract including the Rawene Cemetery, currently using approx. 500ltr of mixed product which contains 3.75ltr of glyphosate (cost less than \$50) - 20 litre spray cost is approx. \$230	Cost to make 500ltr of mixed spray \$700 20 litre spray cost is \$700 + freight	
Usage rate 0.0075% Connector penetrant – not required in most conditions	Usage rate is between 2% and 4% RSL recommend 4% Requires a 'connector penetrant'	
Assumption: No changes to	Assumptions: No changes to product	Assumptions: RSL have staff and

product price and product easily accessible	prices and product easily accessible No additional weed eating required	machinery available to do this work
Consequences: Local opposition Concerns about the impact to the environment PPE required	Consequences: Increased spraying frequency required Increased costs as product and connector required PPE recommendations when handling and using product exceed that of Glyphosate – burns skin on contact either direct or spray drift Increased wear on machinery – very hard on seals in pumps and knapsacks.	Consequences: Not as effective as weed eating. Cannot take the place of spraying in many areas such as on top of graves (particularly the old broken concrete caps etc) and also gravel driveways etc. Risk damage to private headstones, ornaments and floral arrangements. This has to be costed out as another option.
Additional comments: Existing knowledge of the product and cost involved. The location and use of the cemetery means it potentially has very little impact of the environment.	Additional comments: Christchurch - switched from Glyphosate to a Bio product and doubled the number of operators out spraying from 4 to 8 people. Council were not happy with the results so the team was expanded to a total of 12 staff spraying. Still not happy with the results mainly in part to the weeds often do not die / shrivel up and dry out as is seen when using Glyphosate. When using other products, requires higher dosages and frequency - it is still unknown what the long term impact may be to the environment	Additional comments:
TOTAL MONTHLY COST APPROX. Covered under	TOTAL MONTHLY COST APPROX. Cost an additional \$660	TOTAL MONTHLY COST APPROX. Unsuitable as a total

current contracted price	min to cover extra machinery, staff and chemical to switch all of Rawene. Or an additional \$300 per month approx. for the Rawene Cemetery.	replacement for Glyphosate
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If glyphosate is to be discontinued at Rawene Cemetery other options to consider may also include:

- Do nothing – this is not an option for an active cemetery and is also not acceptable as there is a Veterans section that must be kept to a particular standard.
- Establish a Cemetery Committee where the committee are responsible for the cemetery operations e.g.: administration and burials as well as maintenance e.g.: grounds care and graves etc.

Another point is that glyphosate is also used at the Kohukohu Cemetery – alternative options would also need to be considered here.

I am also aware RSL has done quite a bit of research in this space (glyphosate vs. bio-spray alternatives). Findings to date highlight the ineffective use of bio-sprays and if used, would result in the need to increase the frequency of service require a change to specifications / levels of service e.g.: some hardy weeds would need to be acceptable, some may not be able to be controlled, edging and hand weeding may be required – all requiring extra funding being approved.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Mauri ora
Nina



Nina Gobie

Team Leader - Facilities Operations

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