

PESTICIDE USE — URBAN AREAS

Petition

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [3.00 pm]: Finally, I have a petition regarding the use of pesticides in urban areas. It reads —

PETITION TO STOP THE SPRAYING OF PESTICIDES SUCH AS HERBICIDES, FUNGICIDES, INSECTICIDES AND BIOCIDES ON PUBLIC LAND AND OPEN SPACES

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, say that we are strongly opposed to the use of pesticides on public land and open spaces in urban areas. Pesticides have residual effects on soil and water, and they have also been detected in air and rain. These toxic chemicals cause harm to our environment, public health, our pets, our wildlife and trees. Our governments at all levels have not adequately assessed the **Risk (Consequence x Likelihood)** to public health and the environment in their decisions to register for use and to use, a variety of pesticides, such as herbicides for the killing of weeds or grass, on public land and open spaces such as verges, reserves, parks, playing fields, playgrounds, bushland and gardens in our suburbs.

To cause foreseeable harm to the health of our children, the general public, our pets, wildlife, soil, waterways and trees, due to the use of pesticides, is unacceptable. In the **absence of evidence** that pesticides do not cause harm, and following the Canadian example, we ask the Legislative Assembly to support a ban on the use of pesticides on public land and open spaces in all urban areas in Western Australia.

The petition has been signed by 287 people and it has been certified as conforming to the standing orders of the house.

[See petition 119.]

Nonconforming Petition

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: This petition is accompanied by a further petition with 59 signatures that has not met the standing orders of the house.