



2 May 2014

**Our Ref: 05-016-03-0001
Your Ref: Petition No 25**

Hon Simon O'Brien
Chairman
Environment and Public Affairs Committee
18-32 Parliament Place
West Perth
WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien

Regarding Petition No 25- Opposing Pesticides on Public Land and Open Spaces

In reference to your letter regarding comments on Petition 25, WALGA does not have a policy specifically about pesticide use within Local Government. Individual Local Governments are responsible for implementing their own pesticide use policies. However, WALGA does issue advice to its members regarding pesticide use when specific questions are raised. WALGA has provided comment on pesticide use to previous government inquiries. This advice is summarised as follows:

The Association will support Local Government to promote best management practices for herbicide and pesticide use.

In line with community expectations, Local Governments use herbicides and pesticides in streetscapes and public open spaces to manage pest plants and invertebrates and promote aesthetically acceptable environments. Chemical use is the dominant management option, with limited alternatives available.

In order to determine the most commonly used pesticides by Local Governments in Western Australia, WALGA would need to conduct a survey. It would take at least four weeks to obtain results from the sector through a written survey.

A survey about glyphosate resistance was carried out in 2013; one of the questions in this survey asked what non- glyphosate treatments Local Governments used to control weeds. 15 Local Governments responded to this survey and the survey questions and results have been enclosed with this letter.

It should also be noted that many Local Governments keep and maintain a register of properties who do not want their verges sprayed for weed control, and that this is advertised to their communities. Many Local Governments also support the use of fungicide in the treatment and containment of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (dieback).

Local governments are, of course conscious of adhering to the material safety data sheets that accompany such herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

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Yours sincerely

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