

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 29 June 2021

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-41662-Z2C5W5

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 1 June 2021 for the following information:

“1. Please document all the requests made by the New Zealand public for a reassessment of the active ingredient glyphosate between 2010 - June 1, 2021.

Please include as information for each request:

- a. whether those requests requested that a reassessment to include the toxicity of the full formulation
- b. whether those reassessments requested the authority consider that new information included an obligation to consider (a) the IARC decision that glyphosate was a probable carcinogen; (b) the findings of the court cases

2. Please provide information, advice, or requests from Ministries, agencies and authorities or public sector scientists outside the NZEPA recommending the NZEPA carry out a reassessment of glyphosate herbicide between 2010 - June 1, 2021.”

Please find our response below.

Requests by New Zealand Public for reassessment of glyphosate

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has not received any formal applications for the reassessment of glyphosate from the New Zealand public from 2010 to 1 June 2021.

For a substance to be reassessed, grounds for a reassessment must be established by a sub-group of our Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Committee. Once grounds have been established anyone can apply for a formal reassessment. A reassessment cannot commence if grounds have not been established. Grounds for reassessment have not been established for glyphosate. The statutory process for a reassessment is outlined in section 62 and 63 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act).

However, there have been some requests that glyphosate be reassessed or reconsidered included in correspondence from members of the public to the EPA or from members of the public to Ministers, which were then referred to the EPA. These are listed below.

1. On 14 May 2015, the EPA received an email from a member of the public enquiring when current reassessments are likely completed and asking for glyphosate to be included. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, it did not refer to the IARC decision, and there was no reference to any court cases.
2. On 17 March 2016, the EPA received an email from a member of the public requesting a further or proper look into the glyphosate test data. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, it did not refer to the IARC decision, and there was no reference to any court cases.
3. On 23 March 2016, the EPA received an email from a member of the public asking if there was a review of glyphosate and asking for one in light of the World Health Organisation's recent guidelines. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, it did not refer to the IARC decision, and there was no reference to any court cases.
4. On 19 December 2016, the EPA received an email from a member of the public expressing concerns about glyphosate, and a follow up email on 22 December 2016 expressing hope that it will be reviewed. These did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, they did not refer to the IARC decision, and there was no reference to any court cases.
5. On 12 February 2018, the Minister for the Environment received a letter and information sheet from the Social Justice Group at St Luke's Church in Oamaru stating that they would like to see the EPA reassess glyphosate's safety. These did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, but they did refer to the IARC decision. However, there was no reference to any court cases.
6. On 23 March 2018, the New Zealand Medical Association Journal published an opinion piece that called for the reassessment of glyphosate. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, however it did refer to the IARC decision, and there was indirect reference to court cases.
7. On 13 August 2018, the Associate Minister for the Environment received an email from one of the trustees of Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility expressing concerns about glyphosate and requesting a review of the registration of glyphosate based herbicides. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, it did not refer to the IARC decision, and there was no reference to any court cases. However, it did refer to "the legal ruling confirming glyphosate as a cause of cancer".

8. On 5 November 2018, the EPA received via email an open letter from GE Free New Zealand that expressed disappointment that it was not considering the reassessment of glyphosate based herbicides and requested that the EPA reassess the conditions of use for glyphosate based herbicides. This referred to the toxicity of the full formulation, it did refer to the IARC decision, and reference was made to the Dewayne Johnson case (2018).
9. On 28 February 2019, the Minister for the Environment received via email a letter from a member of the public requesting a review of the safety of glyphosate. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, and it did not refer to the IARC decision. However, reference was made to a 2019 article that included a reference to the Dewayne Johnson case (2018).
10. On 27 June 2019, the EPA received a letter from a member of the public requesting a close look at the use of glyphosate in New Zealand. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, but it did refer to the IARC decision, and reference was made to “the latest court cases in California”.
11. On 1 July 2020, the Associate Minister for the Environment received an email from a member of the public requesting an investigation into glyphosate. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, and it did not refer to the IARC decision. However, reference was made to the Bayer settlement in 2020.
12. On 5 July 2020, the Prime Minister received an email from a member of the public asking her views on EPA position on glyphosate and requesting that the EPA review its position on glyphosate use. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, and it did not refer to the IARC decision. However, indirect reference was made to the Bayer settlement in 2020.
13. On 10 August 2020, a petition from Jen Hyde and 85 others was presented to the House of Representatives. The petition requested that the House of Representatives ban all products containing glyphosate from use in public areas by councils or private entities, as well as informing consumers of the potential hazards of glyphosate by requiring these products to be labelled as a 'probable carcinogen'. The submissions from Ms Hyde referred to the toxicity of the full formulation, they referred to the IARC decision, and reference was made to the Dewayne Johnson case (2018), the Edwin Hardeman (2019) trial, and the Bayer settlement in 2020.
14. On 3 February 2021, the EPA received an email from Mr Steffan Browning, which was copied to you, expressing various concerns about glyphosate and requesting initiation of a reassessment of glyphosate and glyphosate based herbicides. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, but it did refer to the IARC decision. However, there was no

reference to any court cases. This also referred to *Public Health Concern: Why did the NZ EPA ignore the world authority on cancer*, published in 2017 and co-authored by you.

15. On 18 March 2021, the EPA received a letter from a member of the public requesting that glyphosate based herbicides be reviewed. This did not refer to the toxicity of the full formulation, it did not refer to the IARC decision, and there was no reference to any court cases.

Information, advice, or requests from Ministries, agencies and authorities or public sector scientists outside the EPA recommending a reassessment of glyphosate

1. On 25 May 2015, the EPA received a letter from Horizons Regional Council requesting confirmation that the EPA was reviewing new research finding about glyphosate as well as an explanation of the EPA's review processes.
2. On 7 June 2017, the EPA received an email from Dr Alex Macmillan at the University of Otago recommending stopping the use of glyphosate based herbicides until further research clarified the risk to human and environmental health and asked how to trigger a process of review by the EPA.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz

We will publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz, within 10 working days from today. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hill
General Manager,
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms