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<b>Related legislation:</b>	Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004		
<b>Related strategic documents, policies, or procedures:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupational Health and Safety Policy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods Procedure</li> <li>• Contractor Health and Safety Guidelines</li> </ul>		

Date	Version Number	Details of Version	Modified by
4/02/2020	2	Reviewed by Executive Team on 30 January 2020	Risk and Safety Officer

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Organisation's position on the use of glyphosate based herbicides for weed control.

Council controls weeds and other vegetation throughout Mount Alexander Shire in order to:

- meet natural resource legal obligations to control declared noxious weeds
- minimise bushfire risk
- maintain a clear view of intersections, guide posts, traffic signs and guard rails for the safety of road users
- maintain the functionality of infrastructure
- prevent flooding
- maintain the amenity of public places
- protect high value natural environment assets from environmental weed invasion.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is the Australian Government Agency responsible for agricultural and veterinary chemical product registration in Australia. All chemical products undergo a rigorous scientific assessment that takes into account the safety of people, animals, crops and the environment.

The APVMA actively monitors new scientific information and have recently affirmed that APVMA registered products containing glyphosate can continue to be used safely according to label directions.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to employees (including full time, part time, casual employees, agency staff and students), contractors, volunteers, Special Committees of Council and consultants of Mount Alexander Shire Council.

The Organisation's Natural Environment Officer has responsibility to ensure that Landcare and Friends Groups working on Council owned or managed land comply with this policy.

## 3. Policy

The Organisation's position on the ongoing use of glyphosate aligns with the independent scientific conclusions reached by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. Therefore, glyphosate products registered by the APVMA will continue as weed control options available to be used in accordance with label and Safety Data Sheet directions.

This position is consistent with advice from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Worksafe Victoria.

However, in recognition of community concerns around the use of glyphosate in public spaces, the Organisation is committed to:

- refraining from applying glyphosate based products in or around children's playgrounds or Maternal & Child Health facilities
- refraining from applying glyphosate based products around the perimeter of hospitals, kindergartens, schools and childcare facilities (Council does not maintain the grounds of these facilities)
- prioritising non-herbicide control methods for weed control where practicable
- prioritising the use of organic herbicides over glyphosate where practicable and safe to do so
- using direct application methods such as wick applicators where practicable to eliminate spray drift
- using glyphosate based products that are formulated for the control of aquatic weeds in environmentally sensitive areas such as on the margins of water courses, dams, channels and drains
- continuing to monitor and trial developments with alternative organic herbicides and chemical-free weed control methods to minimise the use of glyphosate based herbicides in our operations
- phasing out the practise of spraying glyphosate along the full length of sealed rural road shoulders wherever practicable. This will be replaced with targeted spraying of glyphosate at intersections and around guide posts, signs and guardrails supplemented with additional rounds of slashing as required.

## 4. Definitions of abbreviations used

Term	Definition
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
Glyphosate	A broad-spectrum systemic herbicide that is the active ingredient in many commercially available herbicide products currently registered for use in Australia.

## 5. Human Rights Statement

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006). Mount Alexander Shire Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees. Mount Alexander Shire Council will formally involve the Workplace Consultative

Committee in any workplace change that may affect employees or the Health and Safety Committee for any proposed changes that may affect workplace health and safety.