

# Reporting Herbicide Spray Drift

This factsheet has been designed to provide guidance to South Burnett residents on reporting herbicide spray drift concerns. Herbicide spray drift can cause injury or damage to plants, animals, property, and the environment. It can also affect human health.

## What is spray drift?

Spray drift is the movement of spray droplets of a herbicides outside of the application site during, or shortly after, application. Off-target spray drift can occur when chemicals are misused or when operators fail to observe product label instructions.

## Who do I report spray drift issues to?

If you think that spray drift or chemical misuse has occurred, it's important that you report it to the right authority. There are different reporting requirements depending on the type of incident that has occurred:

- **Spray drift affecting the environment** should be reported to the Department of Environment and Science's pollution hotline on 1300 130 372 as soon as possible.
- **Spray drift causing odour concerns** should be reported to Council for investigation. Refer to the details provided at the bottom of this factsheet for contact information.
- **Spray drift causing human health issues** should be reported to Council's Environmental Health Section for investigation. If the spraying has been undertaken by someone who is conducting a business activity it should be referred to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) on 1300 362 128.
- **Spray drift caused by agricultural chemical misuse** should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23

Occasionally, the nature of an incident may require more than one agency to be involved because of multiple impacts. Generally, you should contact the agency responsible for the issue that you consider has had the greater impact. That agency then consults with the other agency dealing with the lesser impact.

## I followed the directions on the chemical label, but it has damaged my crop – what should I do?

Phone the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) on (02) 6210 4700 to report an adverse experience. APVMA is an Australian Government agency that approves the registration and labels of agricultural and veterinary chemical products, prior to sale and investigate all reports of adverse experiences with agricultural chemical products in Australia.

## I am very sensitive to chemical herbicides. Can I be notified when Council is spraying?

Council maintains a register for Chemical Sensitive Residents and Organic Growers. Residents' sensitive to chemical herbicide and certified organic growers who wish to be placed on the Register should apply to Council in writing. Residents/property owners have also had the option to register their property on a 'No Spray' register, stipulating that Council does not spray chemical herbicide including glyphosate in nature strips and immediate vicinity of their property boundary. These residents are required to commit to undertaking their own weed control along their property boundary rather than depending on Council maintenance programs.

## Further Information?

For further information or to report concerns about Council weed spraying activity submit a customer request with Council via one of the following methods.

- ✉ South Burnett Regional Council  
PO Box 336  
KINGAROY QLD 4610  
(07) 4189 9100
- @ [info@sbrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@sbrc.qld.gov.au)
- 👤 Visiting a Customer Service Centre