

8 June 2023

██████████
Sent via email to ██████████

Dear ██████████

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 10 May 2023 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

1. What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to areas of wood chip or bark mulch on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?
2. What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to grass areas on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?
3. What steps are undertaken to notify the public about areas that have been sprayed?
4. Does the council spray any areas as a response to the growth of illegal (psilocybin containing) mushrooms?

QLDC response

1. *What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to areas of wood chip or bark mulch on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?*

This is predominately Glyphosate based products within grass areas identified as Premier or Community for the purposes of controlling weeds. Foraging for mushrooms does not happen in these locations. Chemical application in these locations (most likely natural) are applicable when we undertake Pest Plant control programs. Those programs are reported through the QLDC website:

[Pest Control - QLDC](#)

2. *What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to grass areas on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?*

Same as above.

3. *What steps are undertaken to notify the public about areas that have been sprayed?*

Areas that have had agrichemical applied are communicated to the public using appropriate signage while the application is undertaken. That is in line with industry best practice including Growsafe.

Ratepayers can contact Council and register their house front (on the roadside) and ask that spraying does not take place. This is not the case, however, in Council Recreation reserves.

<https://www.qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/registrations/no-spray-register>

4. *Does the council spray any areas as a response to the growth of illegal (psilocybin containing) mushrooms?*

No.

We trust this response satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Patterson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Madeline Patterson
Senior Official Information Advisor