

## Glyphosate: Deadly ‘poison,’ or biodiversity protection tool? Environmentalists split over controversial weedkiller

.... [A]way from lawsuits and petitions, there are concerns among some opponents of Australia’s invasive weeds that glyphosate – a key tool in their armoury – could be taken away from them.

[The week of Nov. 23] the Invasive Species Council will begin posting and emailing copies of a [new report](#) that looks to defend the chemical from what the council fears is a trend towards restricting its use, and even banning it entirely.

A small number of Australian councils – such as Georges River in south Sydney and [Fairfield in the city’s west](#) – have already banned glyphosate. So have [several countries](#).

In July 2019, [500 staff at Blacktown city council walked off the job in protest](#) at being ordered to use glyphosate. They returned when the council promised to trial alternatives.

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Andrew Cox, the Invasive Species Council’s chief executive, fears that the steady flow of opposition could lead to a flood. “We’re worried that restrictions are being put in place across Australia without a scientific basis,” he says.

...

“Weeds are a major threat to biodiversity and without active management to control weeds and stop them spreading, it would threaten our ecosystems.

“Glyphosate is a good herbicide that has lots of benefits to weed control, particularly for environmental restoration projects and land care programs. To not have that tool available will severely hamper those efforts.”

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