

Use of herbicides for weed control



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

Updated July 2024

CURRENT USE AND POSITION

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority will be managing more than 150,000 hectares of public land, from Torquay to the outskirts of Warrnambool, by November 2025.

We implement a strict weed control program to protect, maintain and enhance all public land.

While glyphosate-based herbicides do play a role in our weed management strategy, we actively use alternative weed control methods where possible, including the use of organic herbicides, selective herbicides, and using mulch as a weed suppressant, followed by revegetation.

We review our procedures and precautions regularly to ensure our use of herbicide is in line with the latest advice provided by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

The APVMA states that glyphosate-based herbicides are considered safe to use when the instructions on the label are followed.

While current Australian standards state that glyphosate can continue to be used safely as per label instructions, we actively work to minimise the use of herbicide in the community.

Authority employees follow a checklist of controls in the use of all herbicides for weed control, which includes the default use of alternative measures where it is reasonable and possible.

User and consumer safety is our top priority when considering the use of herbicides, and our duty of care to staff, volunteers and the public is at the forefront of every decision we make.

All Authority staff and contractors are trained in the application of herbicides and have completed the relevant accredited training. We will continue to follow all regulatory advice regarding the use of all herbicides and use alternative methods where possible.

We will continue to implement new strategies and participate in trials as they become available.