

SPOKEN STATEMENT – Marta Scott

1. My name is Marta Scott. I am a Senior Scientist and I have been employed within the Groundwater team at Environment Canterbury for almost 13 years.
2. I have found some evidence that glyphosate and to a lesser degree triclopyr may be able to migrate through soil and enter groundwater. Their transport within highly permeable gravel aquifers encountered in Canterbury is uncertain. Some of the uncertainty could be addressed through additional targeted sampling.
3. The limited sampling for glyphosate in Canterbury's groundwater has not detected this herbicide but it is unknown if the sampling occurred near any areas with glyphosate use. There has been more extensive triclopyr sampling throughout Canterbury. Triclopyr has generally not been detected with only one historical detection that I am aware of.
4. The drinking water limits applied to glyphosate and triclopyr vary internationally. The monitoring limits of 0.1mg/L for glyphosate and 0.01mg/L for triclopyr recommended by the applicant are lower than most of the drinking water limits, with the exception of the European Union which has set a limit of 0.1µg/L for any pesticide.
5. Maintaining separation distances between herbicide application and drinking-water wells and timing of applications during dry weather when there is no groundwater recharge would reduce the risk to drinking water supplies.
6. I have recommended a setback of 50 metres to shallow private drinking water supply wells and all public supply wells and a 5 metre setback to all other bores.