



This update is dedicated to the memory of Dave_thedolphinwhisperer who sadly passed away on 27 December 2025. Rest in Peace, Dave. Your efforts in keeping our oceans and the Atlantic Seaboard poison-free were legendary. We have lost a kind yet bold and inspirational voice for those who could not speak... Quote from Dave's last IG post: *"What we do in life echoes in eternity"* [For those who knew Dave and are able to, please join the Paddle Out gathering in remembrance of Dave on Weds morning 7th Jan – D.M. me for info]

SUMMER (YEAR END) 2025 – UPDATE

CITY OF CAPE TOWN BLANKET SPRAYING OF ROADS/PARKS

For context of this latest update, refer back to our winter and spring updates available on our website (link in group description):

1. **GENERAL:** Blanket spraying of roads with toxic herbicide formulations continues despite our various efforts since 20 May 2023. In addition, in 2025, COCT repeatedly blanket sprayed parks and popular recreational spaces when we were under the impression this practice had stopped. We have recently requested Unpoison's assistance in obtaining answers to our questions (in 2026) from Local and National Government, including a request for written confirmation of what the National Dept of Agriculture (NDA) endorses for spraying in our communities, since our local government relies on advice from national authorities and since DFFE does not seem to support such COCT practices. Clarity is needed (from both DFFE AND NDA) in writing.
2. **PARKS:** We have requested Unpoison's assistance in helping to mobilize ward councillors to get the City to stop blanket spraying in parks because this also interferes with our right to a healthy environment and this does not uphold our government's duty of care to its people and to the environment. (Refer attached "Extract of Email to Unpoison Requesting Assistance" for details) Since our last letters to the City on this topic, all we can see that was done is the City added a section on their weed spraying information webpage confirming what chemicals they use in parks spraying. They had said they were also going to add park spraying schedules to the webpage, but had not yet done so at the time of us writing this update.
3. **WETLANDS (& ROADS):** In our winter and spring updates, we advised you about our engagement with the City re the reported use of glyphosate in False Bay Nature Reserve – a Ramsar Wetland site - and how we were waiting on confirmation from DFFE about whether this practice is okay. DFFE initially responded to confirm that CERTAIN glyphosate formulations are safe to use in the environment. We challenged this response. We know that strong evidence exists that glyphosate (in its own right – even without other additives / co-formulants) is genotoxic, carcinogenic and harmful in many other ways. We have requested for Unpoison to take this matter further with DFFE and National Dept of Agriculture (refer attached extract of email sent to Unpoison for details). (Glyphosate does appear on Unpoison's HHP list and most of us know about the recently retracted safety study that was used by regulators as a basis for approving the use of glyphosate:
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0273230099913715?via%3Dihub>
4. **ROADS:** Thanks to the "Cape Doctor"'s frequent visits this summer in the Cape Peninsula (South-easter wind!), it seems blanket spraying of our roads was delayed. Despite our requests for more accurate/updated spray schedule information, nothing has been forthcoming from the City yet. We do not know where and when spraying took place this summer in the Far South but do believe spraying was mostly completed in the CBD, Southern and Northern suburbs and the Helderberg area (all to be confirmed – we will continue to request this information from COCT). SO FAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED ZERO EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF COCT ROAD SPRAYING TAKING PLACE THIS SUMMER IN THE FAR SOUTH. IF YOU NOTICE EVIDENCE THAT SPRAYING TOOK PLACE IN YOUR SUBURB THIS SUMMER, PLEASE DM our group admin with the details. (evidence = pictures/vids; location; etc)
5. **ROADS:** In our Winter update we advised we are ready to engage with lawyers on the City blanket spraying issue and in our Spring update we told you about our consultation with Center for Environmental Rights. Since then the Center for Environmental Rights came back to us to advise why they could not assist us in this matter. (Read the "Possible Legal Remedies" section of the attached extract of our email to Unpoison for more information.)

6. **ROADS:** We at PFP reiterate that the City of Cape Town is responsible for toxic-free weed control in roads. We have requested for Unpoison to assist in engaging with the City of Cape Town so that the City takes responsibility for non-toxic weed control. Our understanding is that Unpoison already started working on this, even before we formally requested Unpoison's assistance herein (refer attached extract of our email to Unpoison).
7. **SPORTSFIELDS:** In our Spring update, we confirmed that we had received news that an HHP (highly hazardous pesticide) that is a reproductive & developmental toxin, also a severe marine pollutant/highly toxic to aquatic environment, with bioaccumulation potential, had been used on sportsfields by COCT (outside scheduled practice or match events). The City confirmed "The contractor confirmed that he will not be using the herbicide anymore and is searching for alternatives." We have forwarded a copy of these communications to Unpoison to obtain feedback/follow up of the status going forward from DFFE officials.
8. **LYMPLEIGH PARK:** In communications with a City official about the blanket spraying of herbicides that took place in Lympleigh Park in August 2025 (same concerning chemicals as what was sprayed on grassed Camps Bay Beachfront areas and Atlantic seaboard (Fanwalk/Mouille Point) grassed areas in 2025), following us reporting this on the City's new 'report a contravention' system, essentially the conversation concluded with the City official stating: "We remain committed to ensuring that chemical weed control is carried out in strict compliance with legislation and best practice, while actively seeking ways to further minimise risk and improve communication with surrounding communities." He disputed that it was "blanket spraying" on the basis that they were targeting a specific type of weed, even though they were actually blanket spraying the entire grassed areas of the park! He also said that none of the products or chemicals being used are banned or on the list of concerning chemicals and further confirmed that the next spraying for Lympleigh Park is scheduled for March 2026. (The chemical formulation being used to blanket spray City parks is made up of chemicals that are on Unpoison's list of HHPs, download the list on this page: <https://unpoison.org/our-work/>)
9. **OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS REPORTED:** As with the Lympleigh Park incident, we lodged other contravention reports via the City's new reporting process, including our various previous written complaints, but did not receive responses from the City on any of those.
10. **PUBLIC'S DISPOSAL OF PESTICIDES & OTHER HAZARDOUS WASTE** – We had raised the issue of hazardous waste disposal in Cape Town with DFFE and have requested Unpoison's assistance in obtaining answers from DFFE and COCT regarding this very problematic situation. We are hoping that Unpoison can motivate ward councillors to take charge in getting this matter resolved WITHOUT DELAY. (refer attached extract of our email to Unpoison for details).

Poison-free Peninsula is so grateful to Unpoison SA who have amped up the fight against City herbicide spraying!! It's important that Cape Town residents support Unpoison's drive to "Unpoison our City"! Find out more about Unpoison's **PESTICIDE-FREE CAPE TOWN** initiative here: <https://unpoison.org/poison-free-city/> We believe that Unpoison, with its large network of professionals, is best placed to make this a reality.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: JOIN / SUPPORT UNPOISON EFFORTS – Complete Unpoison's City-wide poll and/or Join Unpoison's new whatsapp community! It has a general announcements group and also has individual groups that are being activated for ALL Cape Town suburbs' residents keen to join the Unpoison Our City movement. (Find out more and participate here: <https://unpoison.org/poison-free-city/>)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO REPORTING ON POSITIVE FEEDBACK IN 2026!

SEE NEXT 3 PAGES.....to read the extract of email sent to Unpoison requesting assistance in 2026:-

Extract of Recent Email to Unpoison Requesting Assistance:-

"....On 18 July 2025, we sent a letter (ANNEXURE A), addressed to "South African Local and National Authorities" for attention Francine Higham and Roberto Quintos, cc The aforementioned DFFE official.

DFFE (Dept Forestry Fisheries & Environment) QUESTIONS

- 1. Did DFFE escalate it to the Green Scorpions since DFFE was made aware of the chemicals (including HHPs) being used by COCT in their blanket spraying of community roads and parks?*
- 2. If not, can they do so now?*
- 3. It is clear from evidence that: (i) COCT consulted with DFFE on (certain aspects of?) the spraying issue earlier this year (2025) but no information of the outcome / details were "officially" shared with the public, other than that COCT confirmed they 'will continue to act within the law'; (ii) We have evidence that DFFE advised COCT that DFFE does not support the blanket spraying and advised COCT not to use certain herbicides (and those same herbicides were used by the City's contractor afterwards). We need written confirmation of the date this advice was given to COCT and exact details of the advice relating to what / what not the City should be using in its suburb and park spraying programmes and whether it was confirmed by COCT that they would stop using what DFFE advised them to stop using. A public statement from DFFE is required clarifying the details.*
- 4. Based on information that came to light in the email thread below this email, Glyphosate 360 was used in the False Bay Nature Reserve last year and it is clear that DFFE advised against this. What has been done about the contravention? And what has changed to prevent it happening again and what will be done in future for the maintaining of the relevant False Bay Nature Reserve fire break? (Is a buffer area required to protect this Ramsar wetland site from associated chemical herbicide spraying pollution... and is it correct to say the buffer should be 70 meters – as set out in City of Cape Town media -and will this be enforced by DFFE?)*
- 5. Can the DFFE official please provide her input on the content of the email communication between myself and a COCT employee relating to the blanket spraying that took place in Lympleigh Park in August 2025 (after said DFFE official had advised COCT against blanket spraying and use of certain herbicides that were allegedly still used in this incident) – ANNEXURE B. Note: This also bares relevance to the other parks spraying incidents PFP have reported on in the last year.*

4. UNPOISON PUBLIC STATEMENT TO SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY

To provide clarity and support for civil society on getting the City/our government to take responsibility, is Unpoison willing to please make a public statement about the following:

- 1. Are there any synthetic herbicides or other chemicals that Unpoison endorses for use by the COCT to blanket spray in our communities (on roads and in our parks)? Felicity Purchase expressed her view after a presentation I made at a rates payers association in May 2025 that the City road spraying will not stop until the chemicals being used in this practice are banned on a National Level. We know nothing will be banned on a National level unless if it is on government's HHP list (and even then, it might not happen). Unpoison has published its own HHP list but we are not sure if National Government endorses this list in comparison to their categorization of HHPs. For example, the latest Unpoison HHP list records glyphosate as an HHP, but DFFE are promoting its use, except if it contains toxic additives. Clarity is needed.*
- 2. Does Unpoison stand by civil society demands for: (i) the implementation of an immediate moratorium on blanket spraying of herbicides on roads and in parks; (ii) implementation of a City-led and City funded non-toxic road weeding programme in the place of spraying?*
- 3. The City of Cape Town's public resources on the disposal of pesticides (as hazardous waste) provides details of where Capetonians can drop off their hazardous pesticide waste (Visserhok landfill). But the DFFE official notified us that the Visserhok landfill site is not a compliant site for hazardous waste (e.g. synthetic pesticides, presumably this includes herbicides and contact insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides and pesticide-impregnated fertilizers such as those people buy from retail outlets) and she said that "extended producer responsibility says that the company must take it back". We were also advised that the City's public information webpages and pamphlets w.r.t. pesticides information are not correct and that DFFE has been engaging with COCT to update the pages (that was 30/6/2025 and as of date of writing this letter, pages have*

not been updated). This is a serious problem in that thousands of people are incorrectly disposing of hazardous waste without knowing its illegal (they are committing a crime). If residents are not allowed to dispose of pesticides via landfill sites, what are they supposed to do with it? An urgent educational drive is required as a matter of urgency on this issue and 'drop off' sites for safe and local disposal of pesticides needs to be made available to communities throughout Cape Town without delay. **Please can you engage with ward councillors to urgently make this happen? (i.e. (i) Updated pesticides/disposal info on City website; and 2. Community drop off sites?)**

4. **On the issue of parks spraying, (read 3(e) above), can Unpoison activate ward councillors to investigate why COCT is blanket spraying parks again and arrange for it to be stopped forthwith?**
5. In parks, we've been told that the City uses a herbicide formulation (DFFE to confirm publicly it is not in support of it) containing 2,4D, Dicamba and MCPA. This, together with an adjuvant called Wetcit Duo which doubles up as a broadspectrum "bio pesticide" (orange oil). The manufacturer claims this product (Wetcit Duo) has minimal impacts on non-target species. This is confusing because it is advertised as a broad-spectrum insecticide (and fungicide?) (Note: there is another product with similar name used by Roads Dept as the adjuvant in road spraying called just "Wetcit" and its safety data sheet confirms it as an environmental toxicant). In light of the Unpoison Network's expertise in biologicals, can Unpoison provide its professional opinion on whether this biopesticide adjuvant formulation is safe for non-target species such as bees and other pollinators? If so, what should it be mixed with because according to our knowledge the current parks formulation being used is not endorsed by DFFE.
6. Whilst on the topic of biologicals, is it in the pipeline for Unpoison to host an educational webinar on biologicals/biopesticides to enable civil society to better understand this industry and also to alert civil society regarding how the Gates Foundation, in partnership with certain agrichemical giants, are associating the term 'biologicals' with biotechnology such as gene editing/programming of living cells. Some African leaders and growers have expressed concern around the possibility of such experimental technology being deregulated for experimental roll-out on the African continent. A distinction needs to be made between experimental technologies vs natural tried, tested and safe alternatives and how the latter could be used in conjunction with agricultural systems that work with, instead of against nature.

5. NDA (National Dept of Agriculture) QUESTIONS:

PLEASE CAN UNPOISON HELP FIND OUT:

1. Does the NDA endorse blanket spraying of our communities and parks with toxic herbicides, even though DFFE have indicated they do not support it? If so, on what basis was this decision made? If so, which herbicides are "okay" to spray and which are "not okay" to spray (in other words, **please can NDA publicly confirm exactly what NDA endorses with regard to this practice, in a public statement**).
2. The DFFE official supports the use of certain glyphosate formulations that do not contain any toxic co-formulants, and the said official said we should ask the Registrar for the information that confirms the said formulations don't contain toxic additives. Can Unpoison arrange to get this information for the public?
3. It appears from our communications with the DFFE that the DFFE supports the use of glyphosate in certain formulations which assumedly means that DFFE is of the view that the active ingredient glyphosate in its own right is low toxicity and can therefore be sprayed in our communities. Please can the NDA clarify how our National Government has come to this conclusion despite IARC's strong evidence of glyphosate (in its own right, even without co-formulants) being genotoxic, and despite the ever-increasing and steady flow of scientific evidence proving environmental harm and human health impacts and despite CANSA's position statement suggesting that "Glyphosate exposure to humans, animals and the environment must be limited as far as possible" and "CANSA further accepts research results that indicate that glyphosate could be responsible (among others) for:

- Endocrine disruption

- Increasing risk of breast and other cancers, including non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

- Cytotoxic changes (toxic changes to living cells)

- Genotoxic changes (ability to cause damage to the genetic information within a cell causing mutations, which may lead to cancer)

- Teratogenic changes (capable of forming or tending to form tumours)

• Pulmonary oedema (excess fluid in the lungs) in exposed individuals”

..and .. “there is sufficient evidence that glyphosate in formulation at low levels are found in tissue of humans and animals”.... And that DFFE should “re-examine the conditions of approval for glyphosate in South Africa”. In a media statement of DAFF dated 22 May 2015, DAFF confirmed that it will “examine the data and assessment done for the IARC classification and determine whether any regulatory action is necessary.” What was the outcome of that examination? What is NDA’s position statement on glyphosate today, especially in respect of blanket spraying it in communities, without prior consent or proper advance notification (inaccurate spray schedules do not constitute proper notice – advance notice of ‘actual’ spray dates should be required)?

4. Can NDA clarify the details of the current acting government appointed national poison information center is and whether this center is either run by or funded by agrochemical companies or their representing bodies? If there is more than one, or one has been replaced with another, please can the details of this be provided (why was it changed? When was it changed and what is being done about SDSs that don’t show the up-to-date poison information center contact information?
5. Regarding the requirement for safety data sheets to be GHS compliant, but where our local government supplies us with noncompliant SDSs or where our government appointed contractors carry noncompliant SDSs with them in the field, is this legal and what is being done about such noncompliance?
6. Where our local government tells us that they cannot provide us with the SDSs for chemicals they are spraying in our communities and that we must obtain such information from the contractor on site (presumably when they are spraying), is this the correct protocol for access to such information by affected communities?
7. If the NDA endorses certain chemicals to be blanket sprayed in our communities and parks, can proper justification be provided where, although the chemicals used might not be on either on the Unpoison or the Government HHP lists, but where there is international scientific studies that point to negative human health and environmental impacts, how can our government justify such chemicals being sprayed in our communities?

6- POSSIBLE LEGAL REMEDIES

The Unpoison Network includes lawyer(s).

As Unpoison is aware, earlier this year PFP reached out to various law firms and legal environmental NGOs to try and obtain their advice/guidance/support in this matter.

We consulted with Center for Environmental Rights (CER). CER unfortunately came back to us to say: “...it falls outside the ambit of our strategic focus and from the information provided, we are of the view that it would be difficult to prove harm in this case which is essential in such matters.”

Another reputable law firm specializing in environmental law provided an expression of interest in assisting us, however, they required payment which was impossible for us. This law firm said that they could assist with a S28 letter. Would Unpoison be willing to fund such an exercise (we have obtained a quote?) and be the applicant for such exercise? Alternatively, would Unpoison’s ‘in-house’ lawyer be able to prepare a s28 letter? Can Unpoison’s lawyer confirm whether this could be issued to COCT? We have supporting evidence and will assist in the matter wherever possible.

Please let us know if/how Unpoison would like to assist in this regard? (The Gauteng-based advocate you previously referred to us was not best placed to assist). There are two additional environmental law NPOs (Natural Justice and the Environmental Law Association) that PFP has not yet approached. (I will likely forward these communications to the various organisations for their information should they wish to step in to assist).

CONCLUSION

In closing, thank you Unpoison for the work you do and for your consideration in supporting us on getting the answers from government that the public deserves. We look forward to reporting back to PFP / civil society on how you might be able to help us in any or all of these requests.”