



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

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Dear Householder

I am writing to provide an update on the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) investigation into the vegetation dieback at Girraween.

The EPA is continuing its investigation into the vegetation dieback, which involves trying to identify the source of herbicide material found in the area.

The investigation is extremely complex and involves a team of EPA staff working with the assistance of staff from Holroyd City Council.

The team has explored a number of possibilities for the vegetation dieback and have now eliminated insect and fungus attack as potential causes.

Scientists and experts have been engaged in the investigation and are exploring the use of forensic technology to attempt to match the herbicide found in the area with a potential source.

Members of the community are assisting by providing valuable information and statements. This assistance is greatly appreciated.

Some community members have asked about the disposal of affected vegetation and trees. Based on available information, EPA is adopting a precautionary approach and at this stage is recommending that any affected vegetation needing to be removed for safety reasons should be disposed off at a lawful waste facility rather than mulched and place directly on gardens. This position may be reviewed as additional information is obtained and further sampling results become known.

If you are planning to remove any affected trees, Council have asked that you advise them so that the trees can be assessed and information on the tree can be collected for future use in the investigation. There number is 9840 9840.

Continuing advice from Western Sydney Public Health is that the herbicide poses minimal to no risk to human health.

If you have any information that may help with the investigation we would encourage you to contact us as soon as possible. All information we receive will be treated confidentially and can be given anonymously though the Environment Line on 131 5 55.

Yours sincerely

G Howard 1/11/11

Giselle Howard
Director Metropolitan
Environment Protection Authority