Make your next vote count

CONTACT: Your local council or your state and federal Member of Parliament and ask for a commitment to ban pesticides until they can be shown to be safe.

Recently the independent consumer's guide, **Choice** said in relation to endocrine disrupting chemicals:

"We urge the Australian Government to apply the precautionary principle to all chemicals and place the burden of proof on manufacturers and importers that a chemical is safe, rather than simply giving them the benefit of the doubt".

The Black Mountain Declaration *(Canberra, 2007)* said:

"a precautionary approach towards minimising unnecessary exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in water, food and air is warranted."

"the precautionary principle is critical to enhancing health. . . infinitesimally low levels of exposure – indeed, any level of exposure at all – may cause endocrine or reproductive abnormalities'". - The Endocrine Society

(The Endocrine Society, is a highly respected international medical society of over 14,000 members in 100 countries). Visit: *http://www.endo-society.org/about/index.cfm*

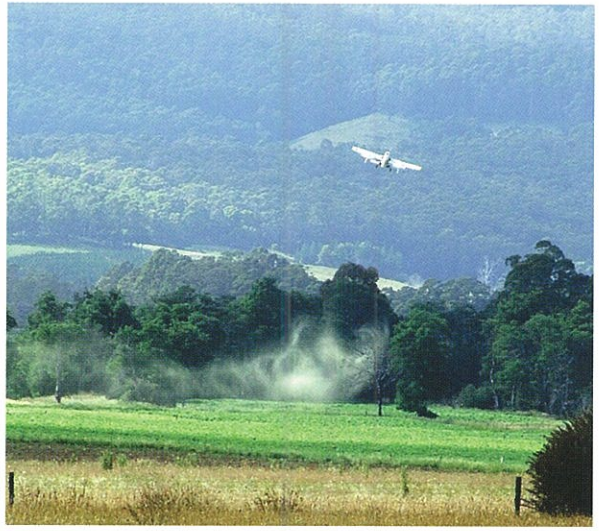
Our Government should adopt the approach taken by the EU and prohibit the use and sale throughout Tasmania of all pesticides which adversely affect health, as defined by the recent EU directive (2009) regarding pesticides: *http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/briefing_page/45150-012-01-03-20081217BRI45149-12-01-2009-2009*

When voting, consider if your candidates are:

- **committed to the precautionary principle in the use of all chemicals**
- **committed to ensuring the safety of our drinking water**
- **committed to placing the burden of proof on manufacturers and importers, to prove their chemicals are safe.**

Above: South Esk catchment: this steep terrain was cable logged of all vegetation and is now used for plantation forestry - runoff from chemicals will enter the water supply.

Below: Agricultural spraying near water

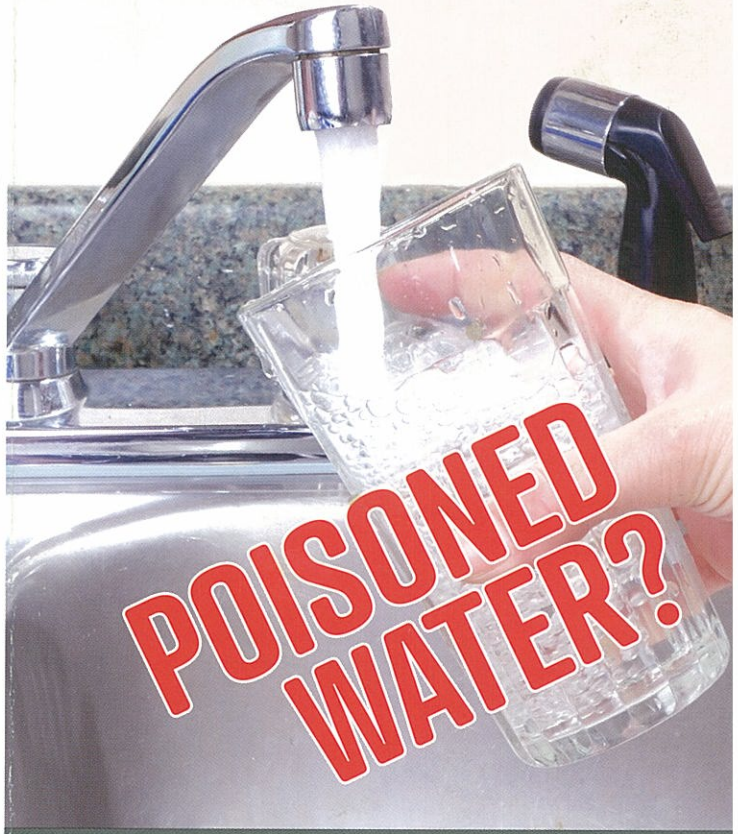


For more information contact:
Pollution Information Tasmania
Web: PollutionInformationTas.org.au
Email: info@pollutioninformationtas.org.au

HELP THE CAUSE:
Make a donation to the Eco-toxicology Research Fund
www.et.org.au

Authorised by: Dr Andrew Lohrey 33 Legge Street Falmouth. TAS. 7215.

WARNING!



POISONED WATER?

Tasmanian drinking water is constantly being contaminated with poisonous pesticides.

Pesticides are made to kill living cells or whole living organisms. They are toxic to mammals, insects, plants, fish and other aquatic life.

Testing carried out by Department of Primary Industry and Water on 55 rivers in the state show that many rivers that supply drinking water now contain pesticide poisons that are banned in the European Union.

Tasmania has many contaminated rivers that are the source of our drinking water.

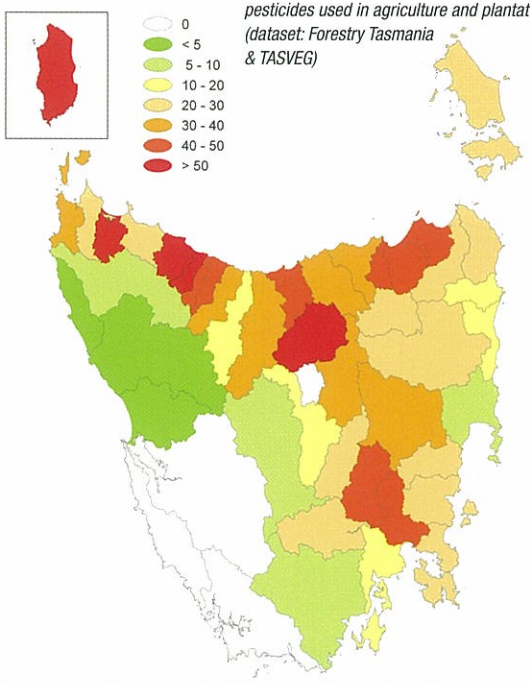
In the past four years alone, these rivers have been contaminated with poisonous pesticides: **the Duck, Inglis, Bird, Jordan, Montagu, Prosser, Rubicon, South Esk, George, Little Swanport, Macquarie, Great Forester, Brumby Creek, Derwent and Liffey.**

Detected pesticide poisons come from the farming and forestry land uses. Tasmania has more forestry plantations (for its size) than any other State.

There are now plantations growing in 44 of the State's 48 water catchments. Water testing by our state government is done sporadically and pesticide detections rarely result in investigations to find their source.

Most pesticides used in Tasmania have never been properly tested for their long term health effects.

European countries have put public health first, banning pesticide spraying until the chemical companies can prove that their pesticides do not adversely affect public health.



Percentages of catchment land subject to pesticides used in agriculture and plantations (dataset: Forestry Tasmania & TASVEG)

No chemical company has yet been able to prove that these chemicals are safe.

Increased usage of pesticides has coincided with increasing rates of disease and illness.

Tasmania is no longer the renowned 'clean green' state.

Over the last 25 years in Tasmania cancer rates (excluding skin cancer) have increased by a significant amount: **33% increase for males and 30% increase for females.** *(Menzies Research Institute)*

Tasmania now has the highest rate of cancer (excluding skin cancer) in Australia (AIHW). Unlike the passive smoker, almost everyone in Tasmania is at risk as a passive consumer of these poisons through drinking water.

These astonishing increases in cancer rates coincide with the increase in pesticide use and confirmed contamination of our drinking water with pesticides.

The latest medical research links several pesticides in minute doses (parts per trillion) to **endocrine disruption effects.** Chemicals acting as endocrine disruptors can interfere with the normal workings of important glands, their hormones and cellular receptors that control our body's internal functions. Endocrine disruption can result in a range of serious illnesses, including breast, testicular and prostate cancer as well as impaired fertility, miscarriages, fibroids, reduced testosterone and lower sperm counts in men. Visit: *www.endo-society.org*

Parkinson's disease

Thirty plus years of research add up to an increasingly persuasive conclusion: **exposure to pesticides increases the risk of Parkinson's disease. Tasmania has the highest rate of Parkinson's disease in Australia.** Visit: *http://onearth.org/article/parkinsons-the-pesticide-link*

This is the cigarette smoke/cancer story all over again!

Opposite: Helicopter spraying over trees, Tuscons Creek

What about spray-drift?

The official view is that if used according to label directions there will be almost no off-site movement of pesticides. This is untrue and misleading. Atrazine and Stimazine sprayed hundreds of kilometres from Brisbane have been found in household water tanks in the Brisbane metropolitan area. Pesticides are everywhere. Rain and dust will transport them thousands of kilometres. Even people living in the cities are unwittingly being exposed to these poisons. Refer: *Water Research Volume 43, Issue 6, April 2009, Pages 1630-1640*

What about mixing pesticides?

There are about 130 pesticides used in Tasmania; many applied in mixtures. In these cocktails the individual toxicity of any one poison when inside our body may well increase and change when mixed with others. The official view from Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is that *"there are no concerns that the mixtures themselves would have an additive or a cumulative effect."* *- CEO, APVMA, Dr Bennet-Jenkins, Estimates Committee hearings, 26th May 2009*

This is not good enough!

The CSIRO states (Land and Water website) *"The effect of a contaminant when assessed in isolation may be very different to the effect of a mixture. Chemical interactions (due to mixtures) may result in dramatically different fate, effects and risk profiles."* In support, overseas research indicates that there are possible additive and cumulative effects. Visit: *http://www.i-sis.org.uk/supertoxicCocktails.php*

Ban pesticide spraying until the chemical companies can prove that their pesticides do not adversely affect public health.