Amitrole  CAS No.61-82-5

Why is it on the list?
Amitrole is classified as FSC Highly Hazardous as it is an: **Endocrine disrupting chemical (EDC)**.

These substances are suspected of interfering with the hormone systems, which can cause cancerous tumors, birth defects, and various developmental disorders.

Why do we still need to use it?
Amitrole is used in the 2nd and 3rd year of plantation establishment to control weeds on planted mounds. It is used in preference to Glyphosate because it does not kill the seedlings. The cost of alternatives to Amitrole are 4 times the cost of Amitrole.

Additional controls
Notices to adjacent neighbours.

As an endocrine disruptor critical risk controls are those that reduce human exposure to the pesticide. Pesticide application therefore requires the use of appropriate protective equipment especially to prevent inhalation (e.g. respirators).

Spray drift is minimised in all spraying operations through the use of appropriately trained chemical applicators and specialised equipment. In addition, spray drift is contained in tree canopies further reducing risk.

Spray buffers put in place along waterways and other sensitive environments will be determined in accordance with the associated risk of the treatment area.

In operations deemed too high risk for the use of Amitrole, alternative chemicals with lower risk will be used, regardless of cost.

The search for an alternative
Previous Federally funded research programmes for the forest industry, including alternative weed control mechanisms (e.g. Cooperative Research Centres) are no longer operating, inhibiting the industries capacity to find an alternative for Amitrole.

The Australian Plantation Industry Pesticide Research Consortium was formed in 2010 with a small industry budget to seek further opportunities for research into alternative pesticides.

Despite substantive efforts, no commercially viable non-herbicide based management options have yet been identified that could replace the use of Amitrole.

To comment please complete the [2015 FSC Highly Hazardous Pesticide Derogation Stakeholder Survey](#)