Picloram  CAS No. 1918-02-1

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

An EDC substance is 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?**
Picloram is used as a herbicide for weed control in Queensland. Picloram is the only herbicide available with the desired weed control spectrum and that is able to be used in Queensland conditions.

All other herbicide options that may have the desired spectrum of control are not registered for use in forestry so cannot be legally used.
Picloram is also used to prevent coppicing in thinned stands. At this stage there are no safe alternatives for this use, as manual coppice control is dangerous for workers and financially unviable.

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

Spray buffers put in place along waterways and other sensitive environments will be determined in accordance with the associated risk of the treatment area. Buffers are under review by Australian Plantation Industry Pesticide Research Consortium using the USDA validated model AGDISP.

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.

**The search for an alternative**
Previous Federally funded research 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 Picloram.

The Australian Plantation Industry Pesticide Research Consortium is continuing its search for an alternative. After 5 years of industry-based trials no commercially viable non-herbicide based management options have been identified that could replace the use of Picloram.

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