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Prof in Roundup defence

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AN environmental expert has attacked the "hysteria" and "misinformation" that popular weedkiller Roundup causes cancer, saying the scientific evidence shows it's "our safest herbicide".

University of Sydney Emeritus Professor Ivan Kennedy, who has conducted risk assessments on pesticides for nearly 50 years, claims the recent landmark court verdicts in the United States against Bayer, the owner of Roundup manufacturer Monsanto, were based on emotion rather than hard scientific data.

One couple was paid more than \$2 billion after suing on the grounds that long-term exposure to glyphosate, the herbicide used in Roundup, had caused their cancers.

"This is very disappointing because, from my point of view, glyphosate is the safest herbicide that we have — and it's inherently not toxic," Prof Kennedy said yesterday. "The court decisions, I believe, were based on emotion and there's all this hysteria and misinformation out there now."

His comments follow the launch of the first lawsuit in Australia this week over Roundup's cancer links.

Australian authorities have deemed glyphosate "safe".