Spray drift from painting and chemical spraying can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their day-to-day activities. If severe enough, it can also damage property and impact people's health. If your neighbours have concerns, Council encourages you to talk with them and look for a way to resolve the problem. Solutions can often be found that satisfy both parties.

CONSEQUENCES OF CAUSING A NUISANCE
Under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, Council is responsible for investigating environmental nuisances arising from residential and commercial properties.

If spray drift is determined by Council Officers to be a nuisance, Council may direct the offender to remedy the problem. If the direction is not complied with, Council may issue a fine.

INVESTIGATING NUISANCES
When investigating an environmental nuisance relating to spray paint or chemical overspray, Council will consider:

» the amount of spray or pollutant being emitted
» the duration and rate of the emission and its characteristics and qualities
» the sensitivity of the environment into which the drift is being emitted and the impact it may have
» zoning under the Townsville City Plan.

Council will not allow continuous spray painting of large pieces of equipment and/or cars in residential areas or spray painting in the open where overspray and odour may become a nuisance to surrounding residents.

REDUCING SPRAY DRIFT
Below are some tips for reducing the likelihood of causing a nuisance.

» Consider weather conditions before starting jobs such as spray painting and chemical spraying.
» Use accurate spraying equipment to help reduce overspray.
» Erect a physical barrier such as sheets or hessian.
» Follow the manufacturer's guidelines.
» Work indoors, if possible.
» Consider an alternative location such as a commercial spray booth.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information visit Council's website townsville.qld.gov.au, or call Council’s Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.