



Pesticides Notification Plan 2018 - 2023



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1. Introduction

1.1. About the Plan

This Pesticide Notification Plan (Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 5 Division 2 of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation). The Plan sets out how Wingecarribee Shire Council (Council) provides notification of pesticide application in public places that Council owns or controls.

For the purpose of this Plan, the term pesticide includes fungicides, growth regulators, herbicides, insecticides, molluscicides and rodenticides. Further information on the types of pesticides and application methods is found in section 7.

This Plan aims to meet the community's general right to be made aware of pesticides applied to outdoor public places. The Plan also allows members of the community to make informed decisions as to appropriate action they may wish to take to minimise contact with pesticides.

Council aims to reduce pesticide use where possible using integrated pest management methods. Council's practices to minimise pesticide use in public places are outlined in the Operational Service Standards. Council continues to monitor opportunities to use alternatives to traditional pesticides.

When pesticides are used, Council will ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe and responsible manner. Council will only use pesticides that are registered for use by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Pesticides are applied in accordance with all label requirements applicable to the pesticide being used. In some situations, Council may apply to APVMA for off-label use. The APVMA administers a permits scheme that allows for the legal use of chemicals in certain ways that are contrary to the label instructions. Where Council has received a permit for off-label use Council will follow the conditions of the approval.

This Plan describes:

- which public places are covered by the Plan
- the types of regular users or visitors to these public places and an estimate of the level of use
- how and when Council will provide the community with information and notification about pesticide applications
- how the community will be informed of the Plan
- how future reviews of the Plan will be conducted
- contact details for anyone who would like to discuss the Plan or pesticide notification.

1.2. Plan period

Start date: 26 October 2018

Completion date: November 2023

1.3. The Pesticides Regulation

Under the Regulation, a public authority such as Council must not use, or allow any person to use, any pesticide in a prescribed public place (public place) that is owned by or is under the control of the public authority unless the public authority has first:

- prepared, finalised and notified the Environment Protection Authority of a plan in accordance with Part 5 Division 2 of the Regulation, and
- given public notice of the proposed use of pesticide in accordance with that plan.

The Regulations defines prescribed public places as:

- a) any of the following to which the public is entitled to have access (whether or not on payment of a fee):
 - i. a public garden, picnic area, playground, park, sporting field or oval,
 - ii. public land owned or controlled by a public authority (for example, a road verge, rail easement or an easement for electricity purposes or for the purposes of other utilities),
 - iii. land reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 or any State forest or Crown land, or
- b) the grounds of any government school (within the meaning of the Education Act 1990) or any establishment maintained by the Technical and Further Education Commission,

but does not include the inside of any building or structure located at such a place.

1.4. Crown Land Management Act

Council complies with the Crown Land Management Act 2016.

2. Public places covered by this Plan

2.1. Area of Operation

This Plan covers prescribed public outdoor places in the Wingecarribee Local Government Area.

2.2. Public Places

The public places covered by this Plan include the following areas that Council owns or controls that the public is entitled to access:

- Public Reserves, Parks and Gardens
- Playgrounds
- Sporting Fields and Ovals
- Road Verges
- Laneways and Pathways
- Drains and Easements
- Golf courses (Council owned or controlled and leased to others)
- Caravan Parks (Council owned or controlled and leased to others)
- Cemeteries
- Swimming Pool Grounds
- Council car parks
- Resource Recovery Centre
- Council buildings (interior and exterior).

2.3. Leased public outdoor properties

Any outdoor property owned by Council and leased to third parties is a public place if the public is entitled to access the property. In these situations, if Council is conducting the works, Council staff or contractors must adhere to this Plan. If the Lessee is conducting the works, the Lessee must abide by Part 5 Division 3 of the Regulation.

2.4. Pesticide use by Contractors

Where contractors apply pesticides on behalf of Council, both the Council and the contractor are responsible for ensuring notification occurs in accordance with this Plan.

The requirement to follow this Plan is included in standard contract terms and conditions.

2.5. Pesticide use by members of the public

Members of the public not affiliated with a Council supervised group, or other Council managed committee are not authorised or permitted to apply pesticides to public places.

All members of the public intending to use pesticide on public land must be registered as a member of a Council supervised group (e.g. Bushcare or Landcare).

In some circumstances, members of a Council supervised group (e.g. Bushcare) may use pesticides to maintain public places such as laneways and pathways or whilst undertaking environmental remediation works in public reserves. Where Council allows such pesticide use notice will be required in accordance with this Plan and within appropriate Council guidelines and supervision.

3. Who uses these public places

Table 1 shows the types of regular users for each public places and the types of pesticide use.

Table 1. User Groups and Public Places

Public Places		Regular User Groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public reserves, parks and gardens		General public (families, children, elderly people) Recreational users Visitors to the area	Medium to high	Herbicides (Spot Spray) Insecticides (Spot Spray) Herbicide (Stem inject, cut-stump or weeding wand) Herbicide (Boom Sprayer) Molluscicide (hand application)
Playgrounds		Children and families	High	Herbicides (Spot Spray) Insecticides (Spot Spray)
Sporting fields and ovals		Sporting clubs and associations School groups Recreational users	High	Herbicides (Spot Spray) Insecticides (Spot Spray) Herbicide (Boom Sprayer) Growth regulator Fungicides
Road verges	Rural	Local residents Service Providers	Low	Herbicides (Spot Spray) Herbicide (Boom Sprayer) Pre-emergent Herbicides
	Urban	General public Service Providers	High	
Laneways and pathways		Local residents People who work in the area Visitors to the area	Medium to high	Herbicides (Spot Spray)
Drains and easements accessible to the public		Local residents Service Providers	Low to medium	Herbicides (Spot Spray)
Cemeteries		General public Visitors to the area	Medium	Herbicides (Spot Spray) Pre-emergent herbicides
Swimming pool grounds		General public Visitors to the area	Low to high (seasonal)	Herbicides (Spot Spray) Insecticides (Spot Spray) Rodenticide Spray ant control



Public Places	Regular User Groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Council car parks	General public Visitors to the area	High	Herbicides (Spot Spray)
Resource Recovery Centre	General public Council staff	Low	Herbicides (Spot Spray) Rodenticide Insecticides Other pesticides
Inside Council buildings including Council chambers, Libraries, Community halls, Childcare facilities, Resource Recovery building and other Council buildings	General public Visitors Council staff Contractors	High	Hand application of rodenticide baits (locked box) , insecticides (spot spray) , fungicides and other fumigants and pesticides

4. How and when notification will occur

The following notification procedures are based on Council's assessment of the:

- level and type of use for the categories of public places
- likely activities that could lead to direct contact with pesticides
- type of pesticide used.

4.1. What information will be provided

The following information will be provided on all notification measures required under this Plan:

- The pesticide product name as it is listed on the pesticide label
- The purpose of the application, including the pest that is being treated
- The date or date range that the pesticide was or will be applied
- The place or places that the pesticide is to be used
- Product specific warnings on the subsequent use of the land (if any are outlined on product label)
- Contact details for further information.

4.2. How notification will be given

General notification for different public sites will be provided by a combination of methods as outlined in Table 2. In addition, Council will respond to all reasonable requests for information made to the Manager Open Space, Recreation and Building Maintenance, the operator applying pesticides, facility staff or to Council. Additional notification procedures for pesticide use adjacent to sensitive places are outlined in [Section 4.4](#).

A summary of each of the methods for notification is below:

- Prominently displaying signs at the main entrance/s. If there is no defined main entrance or the main entrance is a considerable distance from the pesticide application point, then a sign will be displayed at a suitable access point depending on the usage and pedestrian traffic of the pesticide application area.
- Displaying signs on the spray vehicle.
- Notification via email, mail or phone for user groups of certain public places as outlined below.

Table 2. Standard methods of notification of pesticide use

Public places	Notification method		
	Signs at entrance or treated area during the pesticide application	Signs on spray vehicle during the pesticide application	Mail, email or phone notification for user groups prior to the application
Public Reserves, Parks and Gardens	✓	✓	
Playgrounds	✓	✓	
Sporting Fields and Ovals	✓	✓	Where application is by boom spray, groups who have booked sports fields are notified by email, mail or phone 1 week prior to application.
Council Laneways and Pathways		✓	
Council Drains and Easements		✓	

Public places	Notification method		
	Signs at entrance or treated area during the pesticide application	Signs on spray vehicle during the pesticide application	Mail, email or phone notification for user groups prior to the application
Rural Road Shoulders and Verges		✓	
Urban Road Shoulders and Verges		✓	
Cemeteries	✓	✓	
Swimming Pool grounds	✓		
Council Car Parks	✓	✓	
Resource Recovery Centre outdoor public areas vehicle spraying		✓	
Inside Council buildings including Council chambers, Libraries, Community halls, Childcare facilities and the Resource Recovery Centre and other Council buildings	✓ (spot spray)		24 hours notice to the asset manager. Application is normally when the asset is not in use, locked or inaccessible to the public.
Note: Additional information can be found in Section 4.3 (withholding periods), Section 4.4 (sensitive places), and Section 5.1 (Resource Recovery Centre)			

4.3. When will notification be given

Signs will remain in place during the application of the pesticide and until it has dried, or until any re-entry restrictions on the label have lapsed.

There are some pesticides in pellet or granule form that may persist in the environment beyond any withholding period specified on the label. Where this is the case, Council takes steps to place the pesticide to minimise the likelihood of direct contact with the pellets or granules, for example by placing snail bait at the back of garden beds where possible.

4.4. Special notification measures for sensitive places

In addition to the general notification procedures in Table 2, further notification will be provided where pesticides are used in public places that are adjacent to sensitive places. A sensitive place is defined in the Regulation as any of the following:

- a school, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre
- a hospital, community health centre or nursing home
- any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by order published in the Gazette.

Whenever a pesticide is applied to a public place under this Plan that is adjacent to a known sensitive place notification will be given to the sensitive place two weeks in advance of the pesticide application via email, mail or phone.

Council may compile a list of known sensitive places that require the above additional notification measures. Nomination of a contact person for a prescribed sensitive place can be given to the Manager Open Space, Recreation and Building Maintenance on 4868 0888 or email mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au.

Notification to sensitive places is not required in emergency situations outlined under [Section 5.2](#) of this Plan.

5. Situations where Council will not provide notification

5.1. Hand applications

Council will not provide notification for the use of pesticides involving hand-application techniques such as cut-stump, stem injection and weeding wand, in public places due to the small quantity of pesticide used and the wide availability of these pesticides for domestic purposes. This also includes rodenticide and insecticide baits in locked or inaccessible bait stations.

At the Resource Recovery Centre, if back-pack spraying is carried out in an area that the public does not access, notification is not required.

5.2. Emergency pesticide use

Where emergency pesticide applications are required to deal with a dangerous pest infestation, Council will not provide prior notification. Such situations include dealing with declared noxious pests, biting and dangerous pests, or rapidly invasive pest infestations e.g. European wasp, spiders, bees, ants and rodents.

Council will respond to all reasonable requests for information made to the Manager Open Space, Recreation and Building Maintenance, the operator applying pesticides, facility staff or to Council.

6. Situations not covered by this Plan

6.1. Unscheduled substances

Poisons scheduling is the system used to classify substances based on their potential health risk. Decisions regarding the classification of drugs and poisons are set out in the Schedules of the [Poisons Standard](#) (Standard). Enforcement of this Standard is through the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966*. The heading on the product label indicates which poison schedule the pesticide relates to. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) also contain specific information relative to the pesticide.

This Plan does not cover the use of unscheduled pesticides. Unscheduled pesticides are those that do not appear in the Standard. Unscheduled substances pose very low health risks and when applied as per label directions should not pose any serious health or safety risks.

The following schedules relate to pesticides:

- Unscheduled substances are not considered poisons.
- Schedule 5 (S5) - poisons have low toxicity or a low concentration and pose only a low to moderate hazard.
- Schedule 6 (S6) - poisons have moderate to high toxicity and can cause injury if used inappropriately.
- Schedule 7 (S7) - poisons are substances with high to very high toxicity. There are restrictions on the purchase and use of S7 poisons.

6.2. Pesticide Control Order

This Plan does not cover notification for vertebrate pest baiting. Vertebrate pest baiting or fumigation will occur in accordance with a Pesticide Control Order under Section 38 of the *Pesticides Act 1999*.

6.3. Pesticide used by another public authority (or other) in a prescribed public place

This Plan does not apply to the use of pesticide by another public authority not working for Council in a prescribed public place that is owned by or is under the control of Council.

7. Types of pesticides used

[APVMA pesticide definitions](#):

- Fungicide – Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, killing, destroying, repelling or controlling any fungi (vegetative mycelia, budding yeasts and/or their spores) under defined conditions.

- Growth regulator – Chemical substances (often natural or synthetic hormones) capable, at low concentrations, of modifying plant or animal growth patterns (either accelerating or retarding) or inducing developmental changes. Growth regulators may accelerate or retard the rate or growth or maturation or otherwise change the physiology or behaviour of the organism.
- Herbicide (includes pre-emergent, selective or non-selective) – Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying or controlling any unwanted plant, including algae or aquatic weeds.
 - Pre-emergent – A pesticide used to control a weed before it has appeared above the soil.
 - Selective – A term mainly applied to herbicides and insecticides that indicates it is capable of killing some kinds of plants or insects and not injuring others.
- Insecticide – Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or controlling any of the numerous small invertebrate animals generally belonging to the class Insecta. For convenience, insecticides are also described as preventing, destroying or controlling non-insects from other (non-insect) classes of arthropods such as spiders, mites, ticks, centipedes or slaters.
- Molluscicide – A pesticide used to control snails, slugs and other molluscs.
- Rodenticide – Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or controlling rodents declared to be pests.

[APVMA pesticide application methods definitions:](#)

- Boom sprayer – Application equipment consisting of a rig of pipes or tubing mounted on a horizontal or vertical boom, with a series of regularly spaced nozzles that can apply pesticide evenly over a target area. Boom sprayers can be self-propelled, or fully trailed tractor- or vehicle-mounted. To reduce the occurrence of spray drift, boom height needs to be adjusted to the minimum practical height, without affecting uniformity of coverage.
- Cut-stump treatment – A treatment applied to the freshly cut surface of a stump, with the object of preventing regrowth.
- Spot spray – A spray applied to small restricted areas such as individual weeds or small patches of weeds and plants. Spot spraying is used where weed infestation is not sufficiently uniform to justify an overall spray.
- Stem injection – A method of applying a herbicide that involves drilling or cutting through the bark into the sapwood tissue in the trunks of woody weeds and trees and immediately placing herbicide into the hole or cut. The aim is to reach the sapwood layer just under the bark (the cambium growth layer), which will transport the chemical throughout the plant.

8. Communication of this Plan

Council will consult with the community on the draft Plan, including the types of public places covered and the proposed notification methods. The draft Plan will be placed on public display for at least 28 days, and notices will be published in the Southern Highlands News advising that the Plan is available for public comment. The draft Plan will also be posted on Council's website during the 28 day submission period. Council will consider all comments from the community prior to finalising and adopting the Plan.

Once the final Plan has been adopted, Council will advise the community by:

- making a copy available on request at the Civic Centre, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale
- placing a copy of the Plan on the Council website
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette and a local newspaper.

9. Future reviews of this Plan

The Plan will be reviewed every five years. The review will include:

- a review of the implementation of the Plan
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the Plan
- recommendations for alterations (if required) to the Plan.

10. Contact

To obtain specific details of pesticide applications in public places contact the Manager Parks Open Space, Recreation and Building Maintenance on 02 4868 0888 or email mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au.

Members of the public who would like more information about the Pesticides Notification Plan can contact Council's Environmental Officer on 02 4868 0888 or email mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au.