



Warringah
Council

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

February 2007 - 2012



PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned, managed or controlled by Council. The plan provides opportunity for members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides as they wish. It is Council's intention to ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in accordance with the regulation in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and or the Environment.

The plan sets out how Warringah Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns, manages or controls.

The plan describes:

- what public places are covered by the plan
- who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use
- how and when Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (i.e. what notification arrangements will be used)
- how the community can access this plan and get more information about Council's notification arrangements
- how future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

Council is committed to an environmental best practice approach to managing public land and the environment, recognising the use of pesticides in public places only when necessary to eliminate noxious weeds, to protect public property and open space assets from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger.

The majority of pesticide use consists of programmed and supplementary reactive application of herbicides (generally Schedule 5) for weed control in developed park settings such as foliar application control of Bindii and Clover (applied annually), as well as the use of bush regeneration weed control techniques such as cutting-and-painting, stem injection of woody weeds and foliar spot-spraying in bushland settings (generally restricted to Glyphosate). Bait insecticides are used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used may include fungicides, algicides, insecticides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Council's Project Services and Conservation and Land Management Sections on 9942 2111 or by visiting the website www.warringah.nsw.gov.au.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns, manages or controls within the Warringah Local Government Area.

- Parks, playgrounds and picnic areas
- Bushland parks
- Sportsfields, ovals and other sporting facilities including hard courts
- Public land, owned, managed or controlled by Warringah Council, including:
 - road verges and reserves
 - laneways and pathways
 - drains
 - roads, fire trails, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - outdoor public open space associated with Council buildings and community facilities
 - golf courses operated on land owned, managed and/or controlled by Council

This plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Council facilities: Civic Centre, libraries, community centres and childcare facilities.

The main user groups of, and types of pesticide use in each of the categories of public place are summarised in the following table.

Table 1 Summary matrix of public place, usage and pesticide use

Public places	Regular user groups	Category of site	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Parks, playgrounds and picnic areas	The general public including recreational users, school groups, contractors and Council employees	Regional	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate) and insecticides • Broad scale applications of programmed selective pesticides (Schedule 5 preferred) • Spray and bait ant control and termiticides • Vertebrate baiting
		Sub regional	Medium-High	
		Neighbourhood	Low-medium	
Sportsfields ovals and other sporting facilities including hard courts	The general public including recreational users, sporting clubs and school groups, contractors and Council employees	Regional	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate) and insecticides • Broad scale applications of programmed selective pesticides (Schedule 5 preferred) • Spray and bait ant control and termiticides • Rodenticides near facilities • Vertebrate baiting
		Sub regional	Medium-High	
		Neighbourhood	Low-medium	

Public places	Regular user groups	Category of site	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Road verges and reserves	The general public, contractors, utility companies and Council employees	All	Low-medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate) and insecticides • Broad scale applications of programmed selective pesticides (Schedule 5 preferred)
Laneways and pathways	The general public, contractors, utility companies and Council employees	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate) and insecticides • Broad scale applications of programmed selective pesticides (Schedule 5 preferred)
Roads, fire trails, utility or other easements accessible to the public	The general public, contractors, utility companies, emergency services and Council employees	All	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate) and insecticides • Programmed selective pesticides (Schedule 5 preferred)
Drains	The general public, contractors, utility companies and Council employees	All	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad scale spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate)
Outdoor public open space associated with Council buildings and community facilities	The general public, contractors and Council employees	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate) and insecticides • Programmed selective pesticides (Schedule 5 preferred) • Spray and bait ant control and termiticides • Rodenticides near facilities • Vertebrate baiting
Golf courses operated on land owned, managed or controlled by Council	Golf Club members, General public, Contractors, golf club employees		High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of non selective herbicides (Glysohate) and insecticides • Broad scale applications of programmed selective pesticides (Schedule 5 preferred) • Spray and bait ant control and termiticides • Rodenticides near facilities • Vertebrate baiting

Public places	Regular user groups	Category of site	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Interior of certain Council facilities	The general public, contractors and Council employees		High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some spot spraying of insecticides • Spray and bait ant control and termiticides • Rodenticides near facilities

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS - GENERAL

This section of the plan describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in:

- a) in public places
 - Parks, playgrounds and picnic areas
 - Bushland parks
 - Sportsfields, ovals and other sporting facilities including hard courts
 - Public land, owned, managed or controlled by Warringah Council, including:
 - road verges and reserves
 - laneways and pathways
 - drains
 - roads, fire trails, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - outdoor public open space associated with Council buildings and community facilities
 - golf courses operated on land owned, managed and/or controlled by Council
 - Interiors of some facilities owned, managed or controlled by Warringah Council, including:
 - Civic Centre
 - Libraries
 - Community Centres
 - Child Care facilities
- b) sensitive places that are adjacent to public places
- c) arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and
- d) circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on Council's consideration of the following parameters within a framework of risk assessment taking into account probability and consequence of effect of pesticide application:

- The level of usage and accessibility of public places where pesticides may be used (noting that some sites are less used and less accessible reducing the likelihood of contact if any ie bushland sites undergoing regeneration)
- The capacity of Council to control access to public places during pesticide applications
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides or the action of applying pesticides
- The extent to which members of the general public, contractors and Council staff are sensitive to pesticide applications, in particular young, sick, pregnant and elderly people

- The type, volume, toxicity and residual capacity of pesticides used

Notice of pesticide use will be provided through a communications package including one or more of the following:

- Information on Council's website
- the erection or placement of signs at entrances of public places (noting that public signage is subject to removal and vandalism)
- postage of letters and letterbox drops
- through the media via Council's notice page and Administrators message
- by telephone, fax, email or personal contact.
- phone contact to primary users of areas.

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan.

4. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS - DETAILED

a) Public places

- **Parks, playgrounds and picnic areas**

A list of all sites scheduled for programmed pesticide applications will be advertised on Council's website and in local print media approximately 1 month prior to application. In addition temporary signs will be placed at entrances to parks, playgrounds and picnic areas categorised as regional and sub-regional, where visitation is high, at least 48 hours prior to application and remain on site for an additional 48 hours afterwards. Additionally on the day of application and at all other categorised sites, signage will be in place at the entrances of sites to provide notification of application activities. This signage will remain in place whilst application activities occur and until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species. Further information is available by contacting Council's Project Services Section as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan.

- **Bushland Parks**

In these areas the method of notification will vary.

For pesticide treatment in areas frequently used, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated as described above (except for those situations described in 3d).

For vertebrate pesticides covered by a Pesticide Control Order, notification will be as specified in the relevant Order, unless the Order does not specify all of the information required by the Pesticides Regulation. If the latter occurs, signs and/or notices will also provide the information required by the Pesticides Regulation.

For pesticide treatment of areas that are used infrequently, signs will be restricted to that required during application (except for those situations described in 3d). Further information is available by contacting Council's Conservation and Land Management Section as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan.

- **Sportsfields, ovals and other sporting facilities including hard courts**

A list of all sites scheduled for programmed pesticide applications will be advertised on Council's website and in local print media approximately 1 month prior to application. In addition temporary signs will be placed at entrances of sportsfields, ovals and other sporting facilities including hard courts categorised as regional and sub-regional, where visitation is high, at least 48 hours prior to application and remain on site for an additional 48 hours afterwards. Additionally on the day of application and at all other categorised sites, signage will be in place at the entrances of sites to provide notification of application activities. This signage will remain in place whilst application activities occur and until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species. Further information is available by contacting Council's Project Services Section as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan.

- **Public land, owned, managed or controlled by Warringah Council, including:**

- **road verges and reserves**
- **laneways and pathways**
- **drains**
- **roads, fire trails, utility or other easements accessible to the public**
- **outdoor public open space associated with Council buildings and community facilities**

A list of all sites scheduled for programmed pesticide applications will be advertised on Council's website and in local print media approximately 1 month prior to application. In addition temporary signs will be placed at entrances of Council facilities where visitation is high, at least 48 hours prior to application and remain on site for an additional 48 hours afterwards. Additionally on the day of application and at all other categorised sites, signage will be in place at the entrances of sites to provide notification of application activities. This signage will remain in place whilst application activities occur and until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species. Further information is available by contacting Council's Project Services Section as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan.

- **Golf courses operating on land, owned managed or controlled by Warringah Council**

At these sites the method of notification will vary taking into account capacity to control access and the on site presence of suitably qualified and environmentally aware staff engaged in golf course maintenance and management. It is also recognised that an immediate broad scale pesticide treatment of a pest outbreak may be necessary if any delay in application is likely to result in significant broad scale loss of turf quality, risk to the public or significant reduction in the public open space asset base.

Accordingly, notification signs will be placed at the first tee and/or pro shop at the earliest possible time before any application, and remain in place until the morning of the day after application (except for those situations described in 3d). Additionally, on the day of application temporary signage will be in place around the areas being treated to provide notification of application activities. This signage will remain in place whilst application activities occur and until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species. Further information is available by contacting the course superintendent and or Council's Project Services Section as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan.

- **Interiors of Council facilities**

For pesticide use in publicly accessible areas in Council's Civic Centre, Council owned managed or controlled libraries, community centres and childcare facilities, signage will be provided at the public entrances of facilities at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled application (except for those situations described in 3d) and remain for at least 48 hours after application. Note that the notification arrangements described in 3b also apply.

For pesticide use in non-public areas in Council's Civic Centre, Council owned managed or controlled libraries, community centres and childcare facilities, notification will be provided to Council staff operating within the facility are suitably notified of pending pesticide application (except for those situations described in 3d) 48 hours prior to scheduled application. In addition temporary signage is to be placed near and around the areas being treated whilst activities occur and remain in place for 48 hours after application.

- **b) Sensitive places adjacent to public places**

Clause 11J (1) of the Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home
- a place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Where pesticide application is programmed or scheduled for application within 150m of places described in Cl 11J(1), above, the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

c) Arrangements for emergency pesticide applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard or risk to the general public, contractors and Council employees), the risk will be controlled and may involve isolation and restricted access of the site. Where practicable, signage and or on site

management or signage will be implemented (with the exception of those situations described in 3d).

d) Instances where Council will not give notice of pesticide application

With the exception of persons and organisations who have nominated for inclusion in Council's central notification register, Council will not provide notification where the following applies:

- the use of small quantities of pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening).
- the application of pesticides by way of aerosol spray cans and spot weed/grass control using a wand or backpack/handheld spray bottle and low voltage ute pack sprayer, hand-held applicator, or by cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques
- where the pesticide is Schedule 5 or lower - signage only will be provided during application and remain until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species.
- emergency control work – signage only will be provided during application and remain until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species.
- public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is unrelated to the pesticide use
- remote areas where there is little likelihood of them being encountered by the public ie areas where there is no vehicular access and low public visitation.

5. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L (2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used, and
- the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated, and
- the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use, and
- the places where the pesticide is to be used, and
- contact telephone number and email address of the Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice, and
- any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA permit.

6. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Council will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- Placing a copy of the plan on public display, available for viewing, free of charge during office hours, at its main office at the Civic Centre, 725 Pittwater Road, Dee Why 2099
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

- placing a notice in the Sydney Morning Herald and Manly Daily newspapers
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

7. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

Unless there is a specific need for an earlier review, this notification plan will be reviewed every five years.

The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the plan;
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan; and
- recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Team Leader, Investigations and Support
Project Services
725 Pittwater Road
DEE WHY NSW 2099

Phone: 9942 2111

Email: council@warringah.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.warringah.nsw.gov.au