

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

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1. Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared by Shoalhaven City Council in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to address Council's obligations concerning the use of pesticide under section 40 (1) (a) and (b) of the Regulation and to ensure that Council has given public notice of the proposed use of pesticides in accordance with this plan. Council will give public notice of the proposed use of pesticide in relation to pesticide applications made on any prescribed public place that is owned or controlled by Shoalhaven City Council. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they wish. Council ensures pesticides are applied to its public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment. Council must also meet all other obligations under the Regulation including that staff involved have required training.

Other prescribed public places may be under the control of other public authorities, e.g., National Parks, State Forests, Water NSW, etc. These authorities are required to implement their own notification plans.)

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 these public places
- 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

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 or controls within the boundaries of the City of Shoalhaven:

- Community Land – Park and General Use including:
 - gardens
 - playgrounds
 - picnic areas
 - surrounds of community and operational buildings
 - surrounds of cemeteries and crematoria
- Community Land – Sportsground including:

- sporting fields and ovals
- surrounds of swimming pools
- showgrounds
- golf course
- Community Land – Natural Area including:
 - Walking trails (both formal and informal)
 - Lookouts
 - Bushland areas without walking trails
- Road and drainage reserves including:
 - Verges
 - Footpaths
 - Gardens
 - Drains
 - Laneways
- Asset protection zones (for bushfires)
- Operational land, utilised as, or adjacent to, public places including:
 - Pump stations
 - Communication facilities
 - Tourist parks

This notification plan does not apply to the use of pesticide within Council buildings, in public baths, swimming pools or spas.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, the regular user groups and types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places is summarised in the following table.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
<p>Community Land – Park and General Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gardens • playgrounds • picnic areas • surrounds of community and operational buildings • surrounds of cemeteries and crematoria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - children - young families - elderly people - general recreational users e.g., joggers, picnickers - social groups - community organisations - people attending burials or cremations 	<p>Variable and seasonal use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - higher use on weekends, during holidays and warmer months - use dependent on functions held at community buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot application of herbicides or insecticides Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Fungicides Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides Large vertebrate baiting
<p>Community Land – Sportsground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting fields and ovals • surrounds of swimming pools • showgrounds • golf course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - children - families - sporting groups - spectators (all ages) - school groups - swimmers (all ages) - golfers and visitors - walkers 	<p>Variable use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - higher use on weekends - moderate use in evenings - no swimmers during pool closure season - higher during Shows -higher during golf competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot application of herbicides or insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Fungicides Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Community Land – Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking trails • Lookouts • Bushland 	- general recreational users e.g., joggers, walkers - cyclists - tourists - Bushcare volunteers	Low use	Spot application of herbicides or insecticides Broadscale selective herbicide Spray termiticides Bait termiticides Large vertebrate baiting
Road and Drainage Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verges • Footpaths • Gardens • Drains • Laneways 	- local residents and visitors - vehicle operators - government and private employees	Variable use - low in rural areas - low to moderate in residential areas - moderate to high in commercial areas	Spot application of herbicides or insecticides Broadscale selective herbicide Spray termiticides Bait termiticides Large vertebrate baiting Fungicides
Asset Protection Zones	- residents living adjacent or near APZ	Low use	Spot application of herbicides or insecticides Broadscale selective herbicide Spray termiticides Bait termiticides Large vertebrate baiting
Operational land utilised as, or adjacent to, public places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump stations • Communications facilities • Tourist parks 	- general recreational users e.g., joggers, walkers - patrons and visitors to tourist parks, all age groups	Low use except tourist parks which have variable use depending on season	Spot application of herbicides or insecticides Broadscale selective herbicide Spray termiticides Bait termiticides Fungicides

3. Notification Arrangements

This section of the plan describes the manner in which Shoalhaven City Council will provide notice of pesticide use in prescribed public places under its ownership, management or control including special measures for defined sensitive places that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on Council's assessment of:

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides may be used
- The extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g., young children, the sick, pregnant women; sick and elderly people) and are likely to use these areas regularly
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides
- The class and quantity of pesticide used

How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by one or more of the following ways:

- Signs
- Information on Council's internet website
- Letters or letterbox drop
- Telephone, fax, or e-mail
- Door knocking
- Print and/or electronic media (generally only for aerial spraying)

Council will also allow persons to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of pesticide uses within 150 metres of their residence that exceed the minimum quantity (see below).

Council frequently uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes, including home gardening e.g., glyphosate-based products. Quantities, less than 20 litres of 'ready-to-use' mixture, will not be 'notifiable' i.e., Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications. This will also apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand, hand-held spray bottle or gel herbicide applicators.

This notification plan does not apply to pesticide use within Council buildings.

Pesticide use is subject to suitable conditions (e.g., weather) so appropriate prior warning will generally be found on Council's website. The website will contain details of the areas where pesticides are expected to be used in the next 7 to 14 days.

Any aerial spraying or large vertebrate baiting programs arranged by Council will also be notified in local papers as well as the website.

a) Community Land

On community land, signs will be erected near the pesticide application area and/or main entrances and/or at the start of trails or tracks, when quantities exceed the notifiable limit (see above). These signs will be erected to maximise effectiveness and will contain contact details for those wishing to find out more information of the pesticide use. However, signs will not be required for pesticide use in Natural Areas e.g., bushland, away from tracks and trails.

Signs will be erected for all the pesticide uses listed in the table above and remain in place until either the pesticide is removed or has dried (if sprayed).

Where pesticide use occurs within 150 metres of 'sensitive places' (see definition below), the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours' notice by telephone, fax, e-mail, letter, or letter drop (whichever is most practicable). Persons on the central register will be similarly notified.

b) Road and Drainage Reserves (Public Roads and Car Parks)

Road and drainage reserves may contain road pavements, footpaths, verges, drains, gardens, laneways etc. When quantities exceed the notifiable limit, signs will be erected near the pesticide application area and/or entrance to car park and/or start of road and/or on the spray vehicle, where applicable. These signs will be erected to maximise effectiveness and will contain contact details for those wishing to find out more information of the pesticide use.

Signs will be erected for all the pesticide uses listed in the table above and remain in place until either the pesticide is removed (e.g., baits) or has dried (if sprayed).

Where pesticide use occurs within 150 metres of 'sensitive places' (see definition below), the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours' notice by telephone, fax, e-mail, letter, or letter drop (whichever is most practicable). Persons on the central register will be similarly notified.

c) Asset Protection Zones (APZ)

In asset protection zones, signs will be erected near the pesticide application area, when quantities exceeding the notifiable limit are used. These signs will be erected to maximise effectiveness and will contain contact details for those wishing to find out more information of the pesticide use.

Signs will be erected for all the pesticide uses listed in the table above and remain in place until either the pesticide is removed or has dried (if sprayed).

Where pesticide use occurs in an APZ or within 150 metres of 'sensitive places' (see definition below), the adjacent occupiers will be provided with 48 hours' notice by telephone, fax, e-mail, letter drop or door knocking (whichever is most practicable). Persons or organisations on the central register will be similarly notified.

d) Operational land adjacent to public places

Where operational land is adjacent to moderate to high use public land, signs will be erected near the pesticide application area, when quantities exceed the notifiable

limit. These signs will be erected to maximise effectiveness and will contain contact details for those wishing to find out more information of the pesticide use.

Signs will be erected for all the pesticide uses listed in the table above and remain in place until either the pesticide is removed or has dried (if sprayed).

Where pesticide use occurs within 150 metres of 'sensitive places' (see definition below), the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours' notice by telephone, fax, e-mail, letter, or letter drop (whichever is most practicable). Persons on the central register will be similarly notified.

e) 'Sensitive Places'

Clause 39 of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 defines a "sensitive place" to be:

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

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places within 150 metres of a sensitive place will apply. Occupiers will be provided with 48 hours' notice by telephone, fax, e-mail, letter, or letter drop (whichever is most practicable), for pesticide use above the minimum notifiable quantities.

f) Notification of emergency pesticide application

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests (that pose an immediate health hazard), signs will be erected near the pesticide application area. These signs will be erected to maximise effectiveness and will contain contact details for those wishing to find out more information of the pesticide use.

Signs will be erected for all the pesticide uses listed in the table above and remain in place until either the pesticide is removed or has dried (if sprayed).

Where emergency pesticide use occurs within 150 metres of 'sensitive places' (see definition below), the occupiers will be contacted prior to commencement by telephone, fax, e-mail, or letter drop (whichever is most practicable). Persons or organisations on the central register will be similarly notified.

g) Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan.

Where persons and organisations hold an existing lease on Council-controlled land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

4. What Information will be Provided

In accordance with clause 41 (1) (h) of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 the following information will be available by contacting the telephone number listed on signs and/or on Council's website (www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au):

- (i) the full product name of the pesticide to be used,*
- (ii) the purpose for which the pesticide is to be used,*
- (iii) the dates on which, or the range of dates during which, the pesticide is to be used,*
- (iv) the places where the pesticide is to be used,*
- (v) any warnings about limitations on the subsequent use of or entry onto the land if such warnings are specified on the approved label for the pesticide or in the permit for use of the pesticide,*
- (vi) a contact telephone number or email address for the officer of the public authority whom the affected persons can contact to discuss the notice.*

5. How the Community will be Informed of this Plan

Council will advise the community of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
- placing a copy of the plan on its website at www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in local papers inviting submissions from the public on the draft plan
- adopting the plan, after public consultation, at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council

6. Future Reviews of the Plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every four years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the plan
- placing any proposed changes to the plan on public exhibition and calling for submissions on these changes
- making recommendations for changes to the plan, if applicable, considering the public submissions

7. Contact Details

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

Biosecurity Coordinator
PO Box 42 Nowra
NSW 2541
Tel 1300 293 111
council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au
Or access website www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au