



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN 2016

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PROGRAM: Waverley Renewal and Waverley Futures

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INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how Waverley Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to outdoor public places that it owns or controls.

The aim of this Notification Plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. This Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid or minimize contact with pesticides, if they wish.

Waverley Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment. Pesticides are used in public places when necessary to eliminate weeds, to protect public property from pest damage, to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger, and to meet the community expectations for aesthetically appealing parks and public facilities.

Council is committed to ensure that pesticide use is justified, minimised and the lowest toxicity of pesticides necessary to achieve the desired outcome. The Council will continue to investigate alternatives to pesticide use where available.

The Plan sets out how the Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council and its contractors in public places.

The Plan describes:

- The public places that are covered by the Plan.
- The types of users and visitors to these public places, and their estimated level of use.
- Notification methods and channels - how and when the Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places.
- How the community can access this Plan to obtain further information about the Council's notification arrangements.
- How future reviews of the Plan will be conducted.
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss the Plan with a Council Officer.

Pesticide use on Council's controlled land includes programmed and reactive applications, such as:

- Application of herbicides to all public places, including parks, reserves, roads and pathways is applied reactively to control weeds on an as needs basis.
- The application of insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, soil additives, growth inhibitors, and algacides is also applied reactively to control pests on an as needs basis.
- Baits are used to control outbreaks of vermin in public open spaces and to protect buildings and structures from damage by termites and soil pests.

PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Waverley Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Waverley Local Government Area:

- Public parks and reserves.
- Cemeteries.
- Playgrounds.
- Picnic and BBQ areas.
- Sports fields, ovals and courts, and skate facilities.
- Street Trees and planter boxes.
- Civic spaces.
- Road verges and streetscape planting.
- Outdoor swimming pool surrounds.
- Footpaths, laneways, and public roads.
- Easements accessible to the public, including drains.
- Car parks and public toilets.
- Crown Lands controlled by Council.
- Grounds and interiors of Council owned buildings.

Waverley Council's estimate of the level of community use, 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	Type of pesticide use
Parks & Reserves, including Cemeteries	General community use: Residents and visitors. Sporting groups. Recreational users. Children & adults. Schools. Corporate & private. Companion animals. Events hire.	High	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option. Annual broadacre herbicide spraying to control weeds in turf where mechanical and cultural controls are ineffective. Occasional broadacre herbicide spraying to prepare for native plantings
Playgrounds	Residents and visitors. Children & adults. Childcare groups. Schools.	High	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option.
Picnic and BBQ areas	Residents & visitors. Sporting groups. Recreational users. Children & adults. Corporate & private. Events hire.	High	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option. Insecticides, Fungicides/ Algaecides, Rodenticides and Baits used on an as needs basis.
Sporting fields, ovals, courts & skate facilities	Children & adults. Active recreational users. Schools. Sporting groups.	High	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option.

			Annual broadacre herbicide spraying to control weeds in turf where mechanical and cultural controls are ineffective. Insecticides, Fungicides/Algaecides, Rodenticides and Baits used on an as needs basis.
Street Trees and Planter boxes	Residents and visitors passing by.	Low	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option.
Civic spaces	Residents and visitors. Corporate & private. Companion animals. Events hire.	High	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option. Insecticides, Fungicides/Algaecides, Rodenticides and Baits used on an as needs basis.
Road verges and streetscape planting	Residents and visitors. Walkers, cyclists, and drivers.	Medium	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option. Occasional broadacre herbicide spraying to prepare for native plantings
Footpaths, laneways, and public roads	Residents & visitors. Walkers, cyclists and drivers.	Medium	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option.
Easements accessible to the public, including drains	Residents and visitors. Walkers and cyclists.	Medium	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option. Insecticides, Fungicides/Algaecides, Rodenticides and Baits used on an as needs basis.
Car parks and public toilets	Visitors.	Medium	Baits and Insecticides used on an as needs basis.
Crown Lands controlled by Council	Residents and visitors.	Medium	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option. Annual broadacre herbicide spraying to control weeds in turf where mechanical and cultural controls are ineffective.
Grounds and interiors of Council owned buildings	Residents and visitors. Families and children.	Medium	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option.

			Insecticides and Baits are used in public facilities on an as needs basis.
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NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Waverley Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive sites that are immediately 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 and type 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. children) are likely to regularly use the areas;
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides, for example active recreation on sports ovals, sitting on the grass in public parks;
- The type of pesticides used.

Notification of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of:

- Signs erected at main entrance of parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports fields and other public open space for all pesticide application (noting that public signage is occasionally subject to removal and vandalism);
- Information on Councils web site;
- Letterbox drops;

Instances where the Council will not give prior notice of pesticide use:

Council will not give notification for spot spraying of domestic strength herbicides used by hand, or by cut and paint, or stem injection techniques. Nor will it give notification of domestic strength insecticides used by hand for insect and rodent baiting in garden beds, tree bases, planters, indoor car parks and public toilets.

How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Spot applications

For minor spot spraying applications using back packs or hand sprayer, signage will remain in place only for the duration of the application.

Broad acre applications

For major application using boom sprayers and mechanical methods signage will remain in place at the entrance of the Park, Reserve or Council controlled land until the re-entry period has elapsed. Additional signage will be displayed at the main entrances of parks and public spaces 48 hours prior to application and remain in place until 48 hours following application so as to inform the public of Council's intention to apply chemicals. This signage will indicate the proposed date range for application, purpose of application, product name, type and risk phrases as per label.

The signage for broad acre application will include

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

Public Parks, Reserves, Cemeteries, Civic Space, and Council controlled Crown Lands

Signage will be displayed at the main entrances of parks and public spaces immediately prior to application and remain in place until 48 hours after the herbicide application.

Playgrounds

The Council is committed to refraining from pesticide use within fenced playgrounds and within the immediate vicinity of play equipment in unfenced playgrounds. Pesticide use within such playgrounds will be limited to emergency treatment for infestation only and even then only applied after assessing the risk on an individual site basis.

Picnic and BBQ areas

For picnic and BBQ areas signage will be displayed on the boundary and/or within the perimeter immediately prior to the application of pesticides and will remain in place until the approved re-entry period (as per the product label) has expired.

Sports Fields, Ovals & Courts, Outdoor Swimming Pool Surrounds & Skate Facilities

For sports fields, ovals & courts, skate facilities, and outdoor swimming pool surrounds signage will be displayed at the main entrances of the facilities on the day of application, and will remain in place after application until the approved re-entry period has expired.

Roads verges, Footpaths, Laneways, Streetscapes, Easements, and drains

Spot use utilising herbicides of domestic quantities will not require signage.

Broadscale programmed use of herbicides will be posted on Council's web site outlining the locations and timing of the herbicide application.

Certain Council owned Buildings & Properties

For pesticide use in grounds of Council owned buildings and properties, including childcare facilities owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided at the main entrance and near the application area on the day before application and during application.

Special measures for sensitive sites

Clause 18 of the Pesticide Regulations defines a sensitive site to be any:

- School or pre-school;
- Kindergarten;
- Childcare centre;
- Hospital;
- Community health centre;
- Nursing home, and,
- Place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

Waverley Council also considers **community** and **communal gardens** to be a “sensitive site”.

For non-emergency or programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive sites (listed above) the Council will ensure special notification measures is made using a letter box drop to local residents and/or businesses before the application date. For emergency or reactive pesticide use in outdoor places adjacent to sensitive sites the Council will provide signs in the vicinity at the time of application.

External providers of services to Council

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

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council 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.

Notification Summary Table

Public place	Site signage	Web site	Door knock	Letter drop
Public open space, including: Parks, reserves, and cemeteries, playgrounds – Spot Application	✓			
Public open space, including: Parks, reserves, and cemeteries, playgrounds – Broadacre Application	✓	✓		
Sporting fields and ovals – Spot Application	✓			
Sporting fields and ovals – Broadacre Application	✓	✓		
For baiting in public areas				✓
For meat baiting in public areas	✓		✓	✓
Areas surrounding ocean pools	✓			
Road verges and road reserves– Spot Application	✓			
Road verges and road reserves– Broadacre Application	✓	✓		
Laneways, pathways, easements accessible to the public, drains – Spot Application	✓			
Laneways, pathways, easements accessible to the public, drains – Broadacre Application	✓	✓		
Crown land– Spot Application	✓			
Crown land– Broadacre Application	✓	✓		
Grounds and interiors of Council owned buildings	✓			
Sensitive places	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emergency application	✓		✓	✓

Spot use or application of domestic quantities – NO NOTIFICATION REQUIRED unless a Sensitive Place or Playground

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticide use will include the following information:

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

HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Waverley Council will advise residents of the plan and its contents by:

- Placing a copy of the plan on the web site www.waverley.nsw.gov.au;

FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- A report on progress of implementing the plan; a review of alternative options for pesticide use and their feasibility; an update on latest research on pesticide use.

CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Waverley Council to discuss the Pesticide Use Notification Plan should contact:

Manager Public Spaces
Clean and Attractive Waverley
Bondi Road and Paul Street
Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Or by email: info@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Or access the website www.waverley.nsw.gov.au