
Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2023

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PROGRAM: Environmental Sustainability and Open Space and Sportsfield
Maintenance

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Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 5 of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation). This 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 purpose of this Notification Plan is to fulfill Councils obligation to notify residents about pesticide applications outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. This Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid or minimise contact with pesticides, if they choose.

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

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

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

This 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 Councils 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 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 algaecides 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 place use	Type of pesticide use
Cemeteries	General Community Use – residents and visitors Organised Tour groups Relatives visiting family interred Companion Animals	High	Irregular spot spraying with Herbicide is used where mulching or hand weeding is not an option. Regular program of herbicide application to monuments and monument tops Annual spraying of plant growth regulator to Cemetery aisles and turfed areas.
Parks & Reserves	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 is undertaken 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 and 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	Residents and 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	Council Staff. 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.

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;
- that, for some application techniques, the public is unlikely to come into direct contact with pesticides (e.g. bush regeneration programs using the cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques); and
- the type of pesticides used. Pesticides used have varying toxicities and exposure pathways.

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 Council's website;

Instances where the Council will not give prior notice of pesticide use**When herbicides use is domestic strength and/or small amounts**

Council will not give notification for minor spot spraying of domestic strength herbicides manually applied, or by cut and paint, or stem injection techniques. Nor will it give prior 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.

When notice of pesticide use will be provided***Spot applications***

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

Broadacre 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 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.

External providers of services to Council

Where the Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, it is Council's obligation to 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.

How notice of pesticide use will be provided

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

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.

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.

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). 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.

Playgrounds

The Council does not use pesticides 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.

Pesticide Use Notification Summary Table

Public place	Site signage	Website
Cemeteries – spot application	✓	
Cemeteries – programmed application	✓	✓

Public open space, including: Parks, reserves, and playgrounds – Spot Application	✓	
Public open space, including: Parks, reserves and playgrounds – Broadacre Application	✓	✓
Sporting fields and ovals – Spot Application	✓	
Sporting fields and ovals – Broadacre Application	✓	✓
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	✓	

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 purposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use;
- 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 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 this Plan

This notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years, or when circumstances require a review of the plan.

Contact Details

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

Steve Gilchrist
Manager, Open Space and Sportsfield Maintenance
Waverley Council
Cnr. 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