



November 2015

# PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN



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## 1. Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation). The plan describes how Council will inform members of the community about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned and /or controlled by Council. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish.

Pesticide application is undertaken 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 ensuring that the use of pesticides is justified, minimised and the lowest toxicity of pesticides necessary to achieve the desired outcome. Council work practices ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment. Council will endeavour to investigate alternatives to pesticide use where available.

The Plan sets out how Council will specifically notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes to the various broad categories of public spaces it manages.

This Plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the Plan
- How and when Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide application in public places
- How the community can access this Policy to get more information about Council's notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the Policy will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this Policy with Council

Note that this Plan does not grant any rights to enforce change to how or when pesticides are applied by Council.

### 1.1 Definitions

**EPA** – Environment Protection Authority

**LGA** – local government area

**Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority** – The national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including point of retail sale.

**Remote areas** – deemed to be those areas where there is little likelihood pesticide use will affect the public directly, i.e. areas with no vehicular access and low public visitation

**Sensitive places** – Clause 18 of the Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Childcare centre
- Hospital
- Community health centre
- Nursing home
- Place declared to be a sensitive place by the EPA

## **2. Policy content**

### **2.1 Public places covered by this Policy**

#### **2.1.1 Locations**

Coffs Harbour City Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns, manages, controls or has a vested interest in within the Coffs Harbour local government area:

- Public reserves and public gardens, dog off leash parks
- Cemeteries
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields and ovals
- laneways and pathways
- road verges and reserves
- Easements eg road, rail, utility, sewer, water
- drains
- Crown Lands - camping grounds, reserves
- Waterways
- Council controlled / managed buildings
- Swimming pools
- golf courses
- Other outdoor public places

#### **2.1.2 Council buildings and Structures**

Although not required by the Pesticide Regulation, Council will provide information to the community and user groups when applying pesticides in interiors of buildings owned or controlled by Council. The level of notification will be determined on an individual basis with consideration to the pesticide being applied and the public use of the building.

It should be noted that small scale application of pesticides which are available for domestic use and applied at domestic scale are not subject to the policy and notification of their use will not be typically given.

## 2.2 Summary of public places

Coffs Harbour City 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 Covered by this Plan

Public Places Owned or Controlled by Council	Regular User Groups	Level of Use of Public Place	Type of Pesticide Use
Public Reserves, Cemeteries and Gardens	Children and young families, Elderly people and General recreational users	Variable. Low to Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot, or boom spray of selective and non-selective herbicides (including aerial application where necessary) or wick wiping herbicide.</li> <li>Fungicide and insecticide (in garden beds)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Generally works will be carried out at times of low patronage.</i></p>
Playgrounds and Picnic Areas	Children and Young families	Variable – generally low volume in local parks through to high volume in district parks Generally seasonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot spray herbicides</li> <li>Spot spray for Funnel Ants.</li> <li>Fungicides</li> </ul> <p><i>Note that all programmed works will occur outside normal usage hours or during times of low patronage.</i></p>
Sporting Fields and Surrounds	Sporting Clubs, School Sports Groups and General recreational users	Low to Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot and boom spray of selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Spot and boom spray insecticides</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Applications are generally seasonal and will occur when there are no bookings at the facilities.</i></p>
Laneways and Pathways	Local residents or visitors walking or driving and People who work in the Area	Low to Medium	Spot, wick wiping and broad-scale selective and non-selective herbicides

Road Shoulders and Road Reserves	Local residents either walking or driving	Low to Medium	Spot, wick wiping and broad-scale selective and non-selective herbicides
Easements eg road, sewer, water	Local Residents and People who work in the area	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot, wick wiping and broad-scale selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Spot spray insecticides</li> <li>Residual herbicide</li> <li>Insecticide gels and granules</li> </ul>
Drains	Local residents	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot and broad-scale using selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Use of aquatically approved / registered herbicide (situation determined)</li> </ul>
Crown Lands under Council Management	Local residents, visitors to the area, Permitted users-license, School groups and Specialist interest groups	Low to High	<p>Broad scale selective herbicides Broad-scale non-selective herbicides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad-scale insecticides</li> <li>Pest animal control products</li> <li>Fungicides</li> <li>Spray and bait (ant control)</li> <li>Bait (bird control)</li> <li>Vertebrate Pest baiting</li> <li>Bait and spray (termiticides)</li> <li>Rodenticides – bait and spray</li> </ul>
Waterways	Local residents or visitors walking on adjacent tracks and People using boats	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot and broad scale selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Use of aquatically approved / registered herbicide</li> </ul>
Interior of Council Buildings	General public, Council staff, Community Groups and Utilities staff	High to Very High	Various pesticides as required.
Swimming Pools	Family groups, visitors to the area, schools, Swim school participants, Council employees and contractors.	Generally high to very high	<p>Various pesticides as required.</p> <p><i>Note that all programmed works should occur outside normal usage hours.</i></p>

Golf Courses	Members, casual members and School groups.	Generally Medium to high	Spot and broad scale selective and non-selective herbicides (inclusive of cut and paint)
Other outdoor public places within the urban landscape including surrounds of civic buildings,	Diverse range of users from all sectors of the community	High to Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Spray and bait (ant control)</li> <li>• Bait and spray (termiticides)</li> <li>• Fungicides</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: In high use areas in urban centres pesticide application will occur well outside normal business operating hours as well as outside the normal use patterns.</i></p>
Crown Lands - Camping grounds, Caravan /Holiday Parks, Reserves	Caravan owners, Tourists, Campers, Community members, Recreational users, Maintenance workers Permitted users –licence, School groups and Clubs (i.e. fishers, bikers)	Low to high (varies depending on season or holiday periods)	<p>Broad scale selective herbicides Broad scale non- selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fungicides</li> <li>• Spray and bait (ant control)</li> <li>• Bait (bird control)</li> <li>• Vertebrate Pest baiting</li> <li>• Bait and spray (termiticides)</li> <li>• Rodenticides – bait and spray</li> </ul>

### 2.3 Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Coffs harbour City Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive sites 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 Councils assessment of:

- Level and type of usage of public places where pesticides may be used;
- The extents to which members of the public that are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides, (e.g. children, elderly , pregnant) 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 grass in public parks;

- For some application techniques the public would be unlikely to encounter pesticides e.g. bush regeneration programs using cut and paint or stem injection techniques and,
- The type of pesticides used.

### 2.3.1 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Due to the large number and diversity of public places coupled with the range of pesticides used it is not possible for all detailed applications of pesticides to be covered in this policy. It is important that members of the public who wish to avoid places where pesticides have been used recently contact Council for further details.

- Notification of pesticide use could be provided in one or more of the following ways:
- Notice may be provided but not limited to one or more of the following notification methods:

### 2.3.2 General Public and Affected Persons

- **Signage**

Public places where pesticides are being applied will have relevant signage placed in highly visible locations or at the major entry points to the reserves where they exist

For road verges signs will be displayed at prominent locations along the verges at the commencement and completion points of the works to be undertaken during the application of pesticides or as prescribed by the pesticide label.

Where usage is low level appropriate signage may be displayed on the vehicle only.

Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

- **Advertisements** in the local newspaper
- **Website** information primarily dealing with programmed or seasonal works.
- **Letterbox** drops to residents advising them of bush regeneration activities in their immediate sub catchments
- **Mail outs** to known users of public places for targeted control programs
- **Permanent signage** if long term treatment is to occur  
Individual notification by telephone, letter, email, face-to-face contact etc for targeted control programs
- **Email notices** of updated pesticide spray schedule to registered sensitive sites, persons on the chemical sensitive register and sporting groups
- **Council phone and email** contact details for enquiries about pesticide application
- **Daily community notification** with regard to pesticide application is made on Council's website [www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au) and My Road Info website [www.myroadinfo.com.au/landing.asp](http://www.myroadinfo.com.au/landing.asp)



Not all places advertised receive pesticide application on the day stated as unexpected events may prevent planned completion of the daily pesticide program e.g. rain, wind etc.

Council from time to time may need to adjust the spray schedule due to wet weather. Council will provide electronic notification to registered sensitive sites and sporting groups.

### **2.3.3 Chemical sensitive register**

Council encourages persons and organisations to provide their details on a central register which would allow them to receive notification for certain types of pesticide use. In order to be placed on the register residents are required to write to Council and request to have their property included.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use for residents/organisations that have registered on the Chemically Sensitive Register will consist of written notification being provided 48 hours prior to any pesticide application. If a registered resident/organisation advises that the notification period is insufficient, further arrangements will be made to accommodate the wishes of registered residents/organisations, within reason.

### **2.3.4 Special protection measures for Sensitive places**

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places adjacent to sensitive places will consist of written/electronic notification being provided to the managing authority of the facility 5 days prior to any pesticide application. The individual type of pesticide used and its application will be determined by the adjoining public land use and weeds present.

Where possible programmed pesticide application works in close proximity to listed sensitive place should occur outside the normal programmed operating hours of the individual facilities such as outside school term periods.

### **2.3.5 Notification of 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), signs will be displayed at the entrances to the effected public place, notification to known users of public places i.e. sporting groups and school groups who have an existing booking will be provided within 24hours after initial application of the following pesticides:

- Pesticides registered for the specific control of the insect or animal that poses an immediate threat to human health or plant life.

*Note: the control of weeds is not considered to constitute a situation where an emergency pesticide application is required.*

Where broad-scale spraying is required at short notice (e.g. locust control) and public notification is not possible, special precautions will be taken to prevent the public encountering pesticides.

### **2.3.6 Certain Council Buildings**

For pesticide use in all Council buildings all staff will be advised by email 48 hours prior to application. Signs will be placed at entrances advising the general public of pesticide use.

### **2.3.7 Pesticide Contractors**

When Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the Pesticide Use Notification Plan.

### **2.3.8 Lessees of Public Places**

Council will require that the lessee of lands that remain public places will be required to comply with the requirements of the Coffs Harbour Pesticide Use Notification Plan as part of their operations.

In some cases Council may choose undertake the notification process. This process will be outlined in contract documentation.

### **2.3.9 Vertebrate Pesticides**

Notification will be as specified in the relevant Pesticide Control 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 2009

### **2.3.10 Notification of 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), signs will be placed 'on site' (with the exception of those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local NPWS office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

Where broad-scale spraying is required at short notice (e.g. locust control) and public notification is not possible, special precautions will be taken to prevent the public encountering pesticides e.g. closure of camping grounds or walking tracks

### **2.3.11 When Notification will not be provided**

Council staff frequently use small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes, including home gardens. The application of pesticides, herbicides or insecticides of a similar domestic scale are not subject to the policy and notification of their use will not be typically given.

Typical application would include minor spot spraying by use of hand or back carried sprayer, by cut and paint, stem injection techniques or notification of insect, rodent and mollusc baiting in garden beds, tree bases, planters, indoor car parks and public toilets.

### **2.3.12 Public places where no notification will be provided.**

- **Remote Area Bushland** or bushland 30m beyond the urban i/backyards interface and areas outside a 10m corridor of walking tracks within bushland reserves

- **Landcare sites** where restoration activities are conducted on registered Landcare sites supported by Council. The Landcare program has historically had low levels of chemical usage.

## 2.4 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 to be 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 place 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 and,
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.

On request Council will make available material safety data sheets or other fact sheets to residents requiring additional information on pesticides Council uses.

This information will be modified every three (3) months to reflect Council's pesticide application programs. Signs will be a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

## 2.5 How the Community will be informed of this Plan

Council will advise residents of the contents of the Pesticide Use Notification Plan by:

- Making a copy of the Plan available for public viewing in the Council Administrative Building foyer, libraries.
- Placing a copy of the Plan on Council's website [www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au)
- Placing a notice in the Advocate and Woolgoolga Advertiser advising where the Plan will be available
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

## 2.6 Future Review of the Plan

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan was prepared November 2015 and will be reviewed in 5 years or prior to this in response to any change in circumstances that would require a plan review. The review will include:

- Placing the reviewed Plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes and calling for public submissions
- Making recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the Plan

## **2.7 Contact Details**

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss the Pesticide Use Notification Plan or to obtain further details of pesticide application in public places should contact Council

Locked Bag 155  
Coffs Harbour 2450

Phone: 66484000  
Email: [council@chcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@chcc.nsw.gov.au)  
See more at: <http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au>

## **3. References**

NSW Pesticide Regulation 2009

NSW Department of Lands Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2007

NSW Reserve Trust Managers Handbook

