

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

FOR CITY OF PARRAMATTA



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA

1. Introduction

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).

This plan aims to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public spaces that are owned or controlled by public authorities. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish.

Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment. Council is committed to ensuring that pesticide use is justified and that the lowest toxicity of pesticides necessary are applied to achieve the desired outcome. The plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council and its contractors to public places.

The plan describes:

- **What public places are covered by the plan - who regularly uses these 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 future reviews of the plan will be conducted**
- **Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.**

Council only uses pesticides in public places, when necessary, to eliminate weeds, assist in the maintenance of Council assets, to protect property from pest damage, and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger. Where possible and practical, alternative control methods will be used to limit the need for the application of pesticides.

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 within this Council's local government area:

- park and public gardens including:
 - *playgrounds*
 - *picnic and barbecue areas*
 - *street closures and other green open spaces*
- sporting fields and ovals including
 - *tennis courts*
 - *croquet courts*
 - *public pools*
- roads, lanes, paths and verges including
 - *street trees*
 - *street tree bases and squares*
- bushland reserves
- drains and easements
- Council buildings and surrounds.

A summary of public place categories, user groups, level of use, pesticides used and notification methods is provided in table at Appendix A.

3. Notification Arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements 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, sick, pregnant and elderly people*) 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 (*such as picnic areas where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground*)
- the type of pesticide used.

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

- signs
- information on Council's website (*which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places*) and will be publicised in rate notices
- letters
- fax and email
- letterbox drops
- door knocking
- phone contact.

Exemption to notification

The Council uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). The Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than as described in this plan. This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray bottle up to 15 litres.

3.1 Outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA):

- public parks and gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities.

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- spray termiticides and ant control
- bait termiticides (*where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only*)
- bait bird control (*where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only*)
- bait rodenticide (*where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only*).

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places', under section 3.5) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

3.2 Council buildings

For pesticide use in Council chambers, Council-owned libraries, community halls and centres and childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- spot use of insecticides
- bait rodenticides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control
- bait termiticides
- bait ant control
- bait bird control.

In addition, five days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in Council childcare facilities will be given to the facility operators.

3.3 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 18 of the 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 Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places within 20 metres of sensitive places provide for 48 hours targeted notice before application.

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places next to sensitive places, Council will provide notice shortly before use to the occupier by phone, door-knock or letterbox drop, depending upon what is practicable.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Council will organise a door-knock in that sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes before application, so people in the vicinity are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous pest infestation.

3.4 Emergency pesticide applications

An emergency pesticide application in a public place may be required to deal with biting or dangerous pests (such as rodents, wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or similar creatures). In these situations the Council will, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information via its information line.

3.5 Pesticide contractors and lease holders of public places

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

Where persons or organisations hold lease on Council land that remains a public place, lease holders are required to notify Council of pesticide use in accordance with this plan.

4. What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 41(h) of the Regulation, notices of pesticide use must include all of the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used
- the purpose of the use, clearly detailing what pest or pests are being treated
- the proposed date/s or date range of the planned treatment
- the place where the pesticide is to be used
- 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 of application specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

5. How the community will be informed of this plan

The Council will advise residents of the contents of the plan by:

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's libraries and main office during office hours
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in Parramatta Advertiser.

6. Future reviews of the plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every three years. The review will include:

- a progressive report on the plan's implementation
- placing the plan on public exhibition with any proposed changes and calling for public submissions
- in light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations to the plan (if applicable).

7. Contact details

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

Service Manager Parks

City Operations

Phone: 9806 5000

Email: council@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Website: cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Appendices

APPENDIX A – Summary of Place Categories and Notification Procedures

cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/recreation-environment/our-parks/list-of-parks-and-reserves

(APPENDIX A) Summary of Place Categories and Notification Procedures

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of public use	Type of pesticide use	Method of notification
Public parks and gardens including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> playgrounds picnic and barbecue areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children and young families elderly people general recreational users (joggers, walkers, picnickers) other social groups 	High to very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot spraying of non-selective herbicides rodenticides 	Notification via this plan only
		Frequent short to medium term duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> broad-scale selective herbicides insecticides; contact & systemic 	Signage in prominent locations adjacent to the treatment area
Sporting fields, and other related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sporting clubs and associations school sports groups general recreational users casual sports hirers 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot spraying of non-selective herbicides rodenticides 	Notification via this plan only
		As per sporting seasons and schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot insecticides broad-scale selective herbicides broad-scale pre-emergent herbicides broad-scale insecticides fungicides 	Signage in prominent locations adjacent to the treatment area
Roads, laneways, pathways, nature-strips, easements and drains, street-scapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general public – residents and visitors pedestrians, cyclists, motorists 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot spraying of non-selective herbicides 	Notification via this plan only
Bushland reserves and other natural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general recreational bushwalkers volunteer bush care workers 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot spraying of non-selective herbicides 	Notification via this plan only
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> broad-scale selective herbicides insecticides; contact & systemic rodenticides 	Signage in prominent locations adjacent to the treatment area
Council buildings and surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> library users and childcare clients community groups/ associations employees and visitors members of the public 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot insecticides spot herbicides dust, liquid residual spray and bait pesticides bait bird control rodenticides 	Notification via this plan only
			at locations deemed to be at, or within 20m of, a sensitive place, the Special Measures for sensitive places (see point 3.3) will apply.	



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