

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

Resolution of Council: 19 February 2007



Responsibility:
Parks & Recreation

city of villages

The Council of the City of Sydney

Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Reference: Tender Number 0707

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1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how The City of Sydney 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 Notification Plan aims 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. The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid or minimize contact with pesticides, if they wish.

The City of Sydney ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising potential harm to the community and 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 open spaces.

The City is committed to ensure that pesticide use is justified, minimised and the lowest toxicity of pesticides necessary are applied to achieve the desired outcome.

The Plan sets out how The City 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.
- How and when The City will provide the community with information about its Pesticide applications in public places i.e notification methods and channels
- How the community can access this plan to obtain further information about The City'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 City controlled land includes programmed or reactive applications.

Programmed application of herbicides to roads and footpaths across the City of Sydney Local Government Area occurs eight times per year.

Programmed application of herbicides to parks and public reserves occurs annually.

Application of insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and algaecides is also applied reactively to control pests on an as need 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.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

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

- Public parks, reserves, street closures and other green open space areas
- Playgrounds
- BBQ & picnic areas
- Sports fields, ovals and courts & skate facilities
- Planter boxes and flower displays
- Street Trees and Street bases/squares
- Civic spaces
- Road verges and streetscape planting.
- Outdoor swimming pool surrounds
- Footpaths, laneways and public roads
- Drains
- Public toilets
- Council depots and stores

The City of Sydney'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	Public – Residents & Visitors Active & Passive recreational users Children & Adults Schools Corporate & Private Bookings & Events Hire Companion Animals	High	Insecticides – contact & systemic Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicides/Algaecides Rodenticides Baits including molluscicides.
BBQ & Picnic areas	Public – Residents & Visitors Active & Passive recreational users Children & Adults Corporate & Private Bookings & Events Hire	High	Insecticides – contact & systemic Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicides/Algaecides Rodenticides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use	Type of pesticide use
Playgrounds	Children & Adults Childcare, Community Groups Schools	High	Insecticides – contact & systemic Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicides/Algaecides Rodenticides
Sporting fields, ovals, courts and skate facilities	Children & Adults Active Recreational Users Schools Sporting Groups	High	Insecticides – contact & systemic Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicides/Algaecides Rodenticides
Planter boxes and flower displays	Residents and visitors passing by.	Low	Insecticides – contact Fungicide – contact
Civic Spaces Open Spaces	Public – Residents & Visitors Corporate & Private Bookings Companion Animals	High	Insecticides – contact & systemic Herbicides – selective & non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicides/Algaecides Rodenticides
Road verges, pavements, laneways & streetscapes	Local Residents & Visitors. Walkers, cycling, drivers.	High	Herbicides – selective & non-selective Insecticides
Outdoor Swimming pool surrounds	Visitors and members of pool	Medium	Herbicides Insecticides Rodenticides
Grounds of Certain Council Owned Buildings	Families & children	Medium	Herbicides, Insecticides
Car Parks & Public toilets	Visitors	Medium	Bait insecticides & Rodenticides

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when The City of Sydney will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for 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 The City of Sydney assessment of:

- Level and type of usage of public places where pesticides may be used.
- The extent to which members of the public that 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 recreational pursuits on sports ovals, sitting on grass in public parks.
- The type of pesticides used.

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

- Information compiled and presented on the City website.
- Annual advertisements placed in local newspapers promoting the pesticide notification plan, its availability and locations for perusal.
- Signs erected at main entrances of parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports fields and other public open spaces
- Council phone and email contact details for enquiries about pesticide application.
- Information in hard copy at the One Stop Shop and Neighbourhood Service Centres.
- Notices to registered park users.

Instances where Council will not give notice of pesticide use

Council will not give notification for minor spot spraying of herbicides or insecticides by use of hand or back carried sprayer or notification of insect, rodent and mollusc baiting in floral garden beds, planters, indoor car parks and public toilets.

How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Public Parks, Reserves, Open Space and Civic Spaces

Signage will be displayed at the main entrances of parks and public spaces immediately prior to application and will remain until the end of the working day. Additional signage will be erected around the boundary of the specific areas being treated for the duration of the application until dried.

Signage will be erected for the following pesticide uses: Insecticides; Herbicides; Fungicides.

Playgrounds

The City is committed to refrain 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.

BBQ & Picnic areas

For BBQ and picnic 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 end of the working day.

Where BBQ and picnic areas are utilised by or adjacent to sensitive facilities including kindergartens, children's day care centres, community centres, pre-schools and schools, who register interest with Council will be provided with advanced written notice of Council's annual program of pesticide application

Sports Fields, Ovals & Courts and Outdoor Swimming Pool Surrounds & Skate facilities

For Sports fields, ovals and courts, skate facilities and outdoor swimming pools, 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 end of the working day.

Sporting groups, clubs, regular hirers, and occupiers of adjacent sensitive facilities including kindergartens, children's day care centres, community centres, pre-schools and schools that register interest with Council will be provided with advanced written notice of Council's annual program of pesticide application.

Road verges, pavements, laneways & streetscapes

In these public places, advanced information on the programmed application of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides will be posted on Council's website on a suburb and/or precinct basis for the programmed annual applications.

Occupiers of adjacent sensitive facilities including kindergartens, children's day care centres, community centres and schools who register interest with Council will be provided with advanced written notice of Council's annual programme of pesticide application.

Signage will be displayed on vehicles and equipment involved in the application of pesticides.

Certain Council owned Buildings & Properties

For pesticide use in grounds of 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 remain until the end of the working day on the date of application.

Public Toilets

Special measures for sensitive places.

Clause 11J (1) of the Pesticide Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Childcare centre
- Hospital
- Community health centre
- Nursing home
- A place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) now part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place are noted above. For reactive and emergency pesticide use in outdoor places adjacent to sensitive places, Council will provide notice by posting signs in the vicinity at the time of application.

External Providers of Services to Council

Where the City 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 or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification details of this plan.

Sites owned and/or shared by multiple government agencies

In public places where multiple agencies have responsibility for land management on their land, and where there is no physically defined boundary, where Council is undertaking the pesticide application it will follow this Pesticide Notification Plan.

Notification Summary Table

	Site Signage	Vehicle & Equipment Signage	Annual advertising of PNP in newspaper	Letter to registered users of sensitive sites	Annual Program of Application available on web site
Parks & Reserves	✓	✓	✓		✓
BBQ & Picnic Areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Playgrounds unfenced.	✓	✓	✓		✓
Sports fields & outdoor pools	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Planters	✓	✓	✓		✓
Civic Spaces	✓	✓	✓		✓
Road Verges & footways		✓	✓	✓	✓
Car Parks & toilets	✓	✓	✓		✓
Sensitive sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spot & emergency sprays	✓	✓			

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L (2) (g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses 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 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, 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.

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

Council's website will feature a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and if, practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places and with a link to this notification plan.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

City of Sydney will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at One Stop Shop, Level 2, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney and at local Neighbourhood Service Centres
- placing a copy of the plan on the website at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in the local press
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

6. 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
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the Plan and calling for public submissions, making recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Park Services Manager
Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
Sydney 2000

Or by email – customerservice@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

or access the website www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au