



PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN



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PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation). The Plan sets out how Cumberland City Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls. For the purpose of this Plan, the definition of a pesticide will be the same as defined under Section 5 of the Pesticides Act 1999.

This Plan covers:

- What public places are covered by the plan;
- Who regularly uses these public 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 the community can access this plan and get more information about Council's notification arrangements;
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted; and
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

Council only uses pesticides and similar chemicals in public places when necessary to eliminate noxious and environmental weeds, to protect public property from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests, especially turf dwelling pests and fungicide to control fungal disease in turf. To a lesser degree turf growth retardants are also applied. Frequency of programmed applications ranges from 6–8 times per year for sportsgrounds, 2–5 times per year for parks, gardens, roads/laneways, swimming pools, public buildings and public thoroughfares. Bait insecticides are used for termite, ant and rodent control to protect structures and public health/safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include, baits for large vertebrates such as foxes.

Further information on Cumberland City Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling the Customer Service on 8757 9000 or by visiting Council's website, www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au.

2.0 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

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 Cumberland City Council Local Government Area:

- Parks
- Public gardens
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Street closure gardens and lawns
- Sportsgrounds and surrounds
- Street and park trees
- Public land owned or controlled by Cumberland City Council including:
 - Road verges and reserves
 - Laneways and pathways
 - Road, rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - Public buildings
 - Outdoor Swimming pool surrounds
 - Drains/Culverts

- Town centres/ public domains/ shopping strips
- Golf courses
- Other sporting facilities
- Bushland / natural areas

Cumberland 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.

Table 2.1 Categories of Public Places

Public Places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide used
Parks and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elderly, children and young families ▪ Employees / contractors 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Fungicides / Algaecides ▪ Termiticides and control baits ▪ Rodenticides ▪ Baits including molluscicides
BBQ & picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School groups ▪ Elderly, children and young families ▪ Employees / contractors ▪ Bookings and event hire 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Rodenticides
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School groups ▪ Elderly, children and young families ▪ Employees / contractors 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact
Sporting fields & surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sports clubs ▪ School groups ▪ Elderly, children and young families ▪ Employees / contractors ▪ Bookings and event hire 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Fungicides / Algaecides
Road verges & reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents ▪ Employees / contractors 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Termiticides and control baits
Laneways & pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents ▪ Employees / contractors 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact

Public Places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide used
Outdoor Swimming pool surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School groups ▪ Elderly, children and young families ▪ Employees / contractors Bookings and event hire 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective ▪ Insecticide ▪ Rodenticides
Auburn Golf Course Woodville Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Golf club members and public players ▪ Employees / contractors 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Fungicides / Algaecides ▪ Termiticides and control baits ▪ Rodenticides
Auburn Botanic Gardens Central Gardens Holroyd Gardens Linnwood House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tourists ▪ Weddings and other event bookings ▪ School groups ▪ Elderly, children and young families ▪ Employees / contractors 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Fungicides / Algaecides ▪ Termiticides and control baits ▪ Rodenticides ▪ Baits including molluscicides ▪ Baiting for feral vertebrates such as foxes
Public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community groups ▪ School groups ▪ Elderly, children and young families ▪ Employees / contractors ▪ Bookings and event hire 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – bait, contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Termiticides and control baits ▪ Rodenticides
Bushland areas / Drains, creeks and water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents ▪ Employees / contractors 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Termiticides and control baits ▪ Rodenticides ▪ Baiting for feral vertebrates such as foxes

Public Places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide used
Town centres/ public domains/ shopping strips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents ▪ Employees/ contractors 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insecticides – contact & systemic ▪ Herbicides – selective and non-selective / systemic and contact ▪ Termiticides and control baits ▪ Rodenticides

3.0 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Council 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 Council’s assessment that:

- 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) and 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); and
- Type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by any individual or combination of the following:

- Temporary or permanent signs;
- Information on Council’s website. This will describe programmed, reactive, emergency pesticide use in public places, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), purpose of use;
- Press Release in the “Auburn Review” & “Parramatta Advertiser” for large routine pesticide application periods.

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan. Council uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening).

Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan (or general information on Council’s website). 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.

3.1 How and when notice of pesticide and other chemical use will be provided

Public Places	Notification method
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Public Places	Notification method
Parks and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating will be provided to the public near the application area and / or main entrances at the time of application. ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application. ▪ Generally the treatment will be carried out at a time when the use of the facility is low. ▪ Signs will remain in place until the operation is completed and the pesticide has dried or the label allows re-entry to the site.
BBQ & picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating will be provided to the public near the application area and / or main entrances at the time of application. ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application. ▪ Generally the treatment will be carried out at a time when the use of the facility is low. ▪ Signs will remain in place until the operation is completed and the pesticide has dried or the label allows re-entry to the site.
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally Council will refrain from using pesticides directly within a playground area; however, limited use may occur adjacent to playground areas. ▪ Signs stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating will be provided to the public near the application area and / or main entrances at the time of application. ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application. ▪ Generally the treatment will be carried out at a time when the use of the facility is low. ▪ Signs will remain in place until the operation is completed and the pesticide has dried or the label allows re-entry to the site.
Sporting fields & surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating will be provided to the public near the application area and / or main entrances at the time of application. ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application. ▪ For large scale seasonal pesticide use on sportsgrounds, a notice will be placed in the local newspaper two weeks prior to application. ▪ Generally the treatment will be carried out at a time when the use of the facility is low. ▪ Signs will remain in place until the operation is completed and the pesticide has dried or the label allows re-entry to the site.
Road verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application.

Public Places	Notification method
Public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs will be posted in the area subject to the treatment stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating. ▪ Signs will be put up prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed and the pesticide has dried or the label allows re-entry to the site. ▪ Treatment will be carried out at a time when use of the area within the Facilities is low.
Laneways & pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application.
Auburn Golf Course Woodville Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs will be put in place at the entrances to the golf course. Further information on pesticide use shall be placed on the notice board at the Pro Shop stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating. These notices will be posted on the day of application and left in place until the exposure period expires. ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application. ▪ Generally the treatment will be carried out at a time when the use of the facility is low.
Auburn Botanic Gardens Central Gardens Holroyd Gardens Linnwood House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs will be posted in the area subject to the treatment stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating. ▪ Signs will be put up prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed and the pesticide has dried or the label allows re-entry to the site. ▪ Treatment will be carried out at a time when use of the area within the Garden is low. ▪ In some circumstances sections of the Gardens may be closed to public use for the duration of the treatment.
Bushland areas / Drains, creeks and water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs will be posted at the entrances to the area subject to the treatment stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating. ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle used stating chemical being used, targeted weed and schedule rating at the time of application. ▪ Signs will remain in place until the operation is completed and the pesticide has dried or the label allows re-entry to the site.
Town centres/ Public domains/ Shopping strips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs will be mounted on the spray vehicle at the time of application. ▪ Treatment will be carried out at a time when use of the area is low.

3.2 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 39 of the *Pesticides Regulation* defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School or pre-school,
- Kindergarten,

- Childcare centre,
- Hospital,
- Community health centre,
- Nursing home, or,
- Place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority NSW.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places adjacent to properties identified as sensitive places will consist of written notification in the form of a letter to the administrator of the facility.

3.3 Notification of emergency pesticide applications

There are cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places 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) or turf pests or disease (which presents an immediate risk to assets). During these applications, signage will be erected and kept in place until the exposure period (as determined in the SDS) has expired. If in the event of such information not being available on the SDS form, Council will follow the manufactures' recommendation.

3.4 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, they must comply with the requirements of this notification plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council owned land that remains a public place, they must ensure that pesticide application fulfils the notification requirements and notify Council of any proposed actions.

3.5 Signage

Where Council prescribes to use signage, permanent or otherwise, for routine or emergency pesticide application regimes, signage will be located at an entrance and/or along the limits of the area where pesticides are applied. The signage will be put in place prior to any application and will remain in place at least until the exposure period (as determined in the SDS) has expired. If in the event of such information not being available on the SDS form, Council will follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

4.0 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 20 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 APVMA¹ permit.

5.0 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Council will advise residents of this Plan and its contents by:

¹ The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), 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 the point of retail sale.

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at Council's Customer Service Centres, 1 Susan Street, Auburn and 16 Memorial Ave Merrylands and at the Public Libraries of:
 - Auburn
 - Lidcombe
 - Regents Park
 - Granville
 - Merrylands
 - Guildford
- Placing a copy of the plan on its website
- Placing a notice in the *Auburn Review* and *Parramatta Advertiser*

6.0 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

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

- A report on progress of implementing the plan
- Placing the plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes and calling for public submissions
- In the light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7.0 CONTACT DETAILS

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

Manager Open Space

PO Box 42,

Merrylands,

NSW 2160

Telephone: (02) 8757 9000

Fax: (02) 9840 9734

Email: council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au