

2015

Southern Slopes Noxious Plants  
Authority

Pesticides Notification Plan

# COUNCIL PESTICIDES NOTIFICATION PLAN (March 2015)

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Amendment (Notification) Regulations 2003. (the Regulation).

The aim of this Plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticides applications made to public places. The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. It does not mean that the community is at any greater risk or harm from pesticides. Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, without harm to the community or the environment.

The Plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of any pesticide application made by Council to public places. It describes:

- What public places are covered by the Plan;
- Who is most likely to use or access these public places and an estimate of the level of use;
- How and when Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide application (i.e. what notification arrangements will be used);
- How the community will be informed of the notification arrangements contained in the Plan;

## **2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS NOTIFICATION PLAN**

Under the Regulations, it is mandatory for Council to include in the notification plan advice on how it will provide notice of pesticide applications made to the following public places:

- Public Gardens
- Playgrounds
- Ovals
- Laneways and Pathways
- Cemeteries
- Blackberry Spraying on public land
- Private Property
- Parks
- Sporting Fields
- Road Shoulders, Verges and Reserves
- Drains

This notification plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticides applications made to:

- The interiors of council buildings (Council chambers, libraries, community halls/centres and child care facilities).

### **3. WHO USES THESE PUBLIC PLACES**

#### **a) Public Parks and Gardens**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to public parks and gardens is high. The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Children and young families;
- Elderly people; and
- General recreational users ( eg. Joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers).

#### **b) Playgrounds**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to public playgrounds is high! The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Children and young families

#### **c) Sporting Fields and Ovals Public Parks and Gardens**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to public sporting fields and ovals is high. The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Sporting clubs and associations
- School sports groups
- General recreational users (eg. Joggers, dog-walkers).

#### **d) Council Laneways and Pathways**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to laneways and pathways that are owned or maintained by Council is medium to high. The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Local residents
- People who work in the area; and
- Visitors to the area.

### **e) Council Drains**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to drains that are owned or maintained by Council is low to medium. The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Local residents living adjacent to a drain;
- Local residents or visitors who walk or drive past drain.

### **f) Road shoulders, Verges and Reserves**

Rural Roads - Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to road shoulders, verges and reserves on rural roads that are owned or maintained by Council is low. The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road

Urban Roads - Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to road shoulders, verges and reserves on urban roads that are owned or maintained by Council is medium to high. The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road

### **g) Interior of Council buildings**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to these Council buildings (including Council chambers, Council owned libraries, community halls and centres, childcare facilities) is high. The main groups of the community that use or have access to these public places are:

- Library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly);
- Young children and their carers (childcare facilities);
- Mothers groups/playgroups;
- Community associations;
- Church groups; and
- General members of the public.

#### **h) Cemeteries**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to public cemeteries is medium.

The main groups in the community that access these public places are:

- Local residents;
- Funeral attendees;
- Historians;
- Tradesman;
- Church groups and
- General members of the public.

#### **i) Blackberry spraying on public land**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to public areas where Blackberries are present is low.

The main groups in the community that access these public places are:

- Local residents;
- Travellers;
- Children;
- General members of the public.

#### **j) Private property**

Council estimates that the level of usage and community access to private property is low.

The main groups in the community that access these public places are:

- Neighbouring property owners;
- Trespassers;
- Children;
- General members of the public.

## **4. HOW NOTIFICATION WILL OCCUR**

### **a) Public Parks and Gardens**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a public park or garden, Council will provide notice by:

- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper, Boorowa News, Harden Express, Yass Tribune, and Young Witness, and/or on council website.
- Prominently displaying signs at all entrances to the public park or garden and on all toilet blocks or notice boards (if available)
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- The level of usage for public parks and gardens is high.
- Those members of the public that are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (ie. Young children and elderly people) regularly use these areas.
- Several activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (e.g. picnics where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground).
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council in public parks and gardens (ie. Backpack and hand applicator and in some instances, a boom spray attached to a 4x4 vehicle).

### **b) Playgrounds**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a public playground, Council will provide notice by:

- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper, and/or on council website.
- Prominently displaying signs at all entrances to the playground and on all toilet blocks or notice boards (if available);
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage for public playgrounds is high.
- Those members of the public that are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (ie. very young children) regularly use these areas.
- Activities undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (e.g. children playing on playground equipment or placing objects in their mouths).

- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council in playgrounds (ie. backpack and hand applicator).

### **c) Sporting Fields and Ovals**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a public sporting field or oval, Council will provide notice by:

- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper, and/or on council website.
- Prominently displaying signs at all entrances to the sporting field or oval and on all toilet blocks or notice boards (if available);
- Contacting all sporting clubs, associations and other groups who book the sporting field or oval for use.
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage for public sporting fields and ovals is high.
- Those members of the public that are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (ie. school-age children) regularly use these areas.
- Activities undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (e.g. sporting activities that result in direct contact with the ground).
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council in sporting fields and ovals (ie. boom spray mounted on a 4x4 vehicle).

### **d) Council laneways and pathways**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a laneway or pathway that is owned or maintained by Council, Council will provide notice by:

- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper and/or on council website.
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made directly to the operator applying the pesticide or to Council itself.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage for public Council laneways and pathways is medium to high.
- Walking or driving on laneways or pathways while a pesticide application is taking place could result in some direct contact with pesticides.
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council on laneways and pathways (ie. generally spot spraying using a hand-held applicator or a boom-spray attached to a 4WD motorbike).

### **e) Council Drains**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a drain that is owned or maintained by Council, Council will provide notice by:

- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper and/or on council website.
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage for public Council drains is medium to low.
- Walking or driving past a drain while a pesticide application is taking place could result in some direct contact with pesticides.
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council on drains (generally spot spraying using a hand-held applicator or a boom-spray attached to a 4WD motorbike).

### **f) Road Shoulders, Verges and Reserves**

**Rural Roads** - Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a road shoulder, verges and reserves on rural roads that are owned or maintained by Council, Council will provide notice by:

- Advertise on council's website.
- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper.
- Provide a fully signed escort vehicle.
- Maintain a log of sensitive sites to avoid.
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage of road shoulders, verges and reserves on rural roads that are owned or maintained by Council is low.
- Walking or driving on a road where a pesticide application is taking place could result in some direct contact with pesticides.
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council on road shoulders, verges and reserves on rural roads (generally spot spraying using a hand-held applicator and using a boom-spray attached to the back of a truck).



**Urban Roads** - Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a road shoulder, verges and reserves on urban roads that are owned or maintained by Council, Council will provide notice by:

- Advertise on council's website.
- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper.
- Provide a fully signed escort vehicle.
- Maintain a log of sensitive sites to avoid.
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made directly to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage of road shoulders, verges and reserves on urban roads that are owned or maintained by Council is high.
- Walking or driving on a road where a pesticide application is taking place could result in some direct contact with pesticides.
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council on road shoulders, verges and reserves on rural roads (generally spot spraying using a hand-held applicator and using a boom-spray attached to the back of a truck).

#### **g) Interiors of Council Buildings**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council in or around council chambers, a Council library, community hall/centre or childcare facility, Council will provide notice by:

- Prominently displaying signs at all entrances to the building and on any notice boards (if available);
- Informing all staff members of application.
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage for council chambers, public libraries, and community centres is high.
- Those members of the public that are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (ie. young children and elderly people) would regularly use these areas.
- The types of activities conducted in these areas could result in some contact with pesticides (ie. consuming food, using objects exposed to pesticides).
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council in public libraries and community centres (ie. backpack and hand applicator or laying baits or gel which could be accessed by children).

## **h) Cemeteries**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council in a cemetery that is owned by or maintained by Council, Council will provide notice by:

- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper, Boorowa News, Harden Express, Yass Tribune, and Young Witness, and/or Council's website.
- Prominently displaying signs at all entrances to the cemetery and on all toilet blocks or notice boards (if available)
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- The level of usage for cemeteries is medium.
- Activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (e.g. funerals).
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council in cemeteries (ie. backpack and hand applicator and in some instances, a boom spray attached to a 4x4 vehicle).

## **i) Blackberry spraying on public land**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a Blackberry bush on any public land, Council will provide notice by:

- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper and/or advertise on council's website.
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.
- Erect signs next to Blackberry bushes warning the public not to eat fruit.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage is low.
- Walking or driving past a Blackberry bush while a pesticide application is taking place could result in some direct contact with pesticides.
- There is some risk of contact with pesticides from the application methods used by Council on Blackberry (generally spot spraying using a hand-held applicator).

## **j) Private property**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council under contract on private property, notice will be provided by:

- The property owner being advised to contact Immediate neighbours.
- Displaying Council details on the spray vehicle (where one is used), including a contact number; and
- Responding to all reasonable requests for information made to Council.

These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment that:

- Level of usage for private property is low.
- Walking or driving on a road where a pesticide application is taking place could result in some direct contact with pesticides.
- Neighbours can prepare for any subsequent spray drift.

## **Community Notification Register**

In addition to the notification method outlined above, Council will establish a notification register of anyone who wishes to receive regular notification of Council's pesticides spray activities. Notice will be provided by an agreed method, one week prior to the pesticide application

## **5. WHEN NOTIFICATION WILL OCCUR**

### **a) Public Parks and Gardens**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a public park or garden, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper and notices prominently displayed at all entrances to the public place;
- During the application of the pesticide (Council will ensure that notices are prominently displayed at all entrances to the public during the application); and
- 24 hours **following** the application (signs will remain in place for 24 hours after the pesticide application or longer if Council deems that the product used requires a longer period of notice);

### **b) Playgrounds**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a playground, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper and notices prominently displayed at all entrances to the public place;
- During the application of the pesticide (Council will ensure that notices are prominently displayed at all entrances to the public during the application); and

- 24 hours **following** the application (signs will remain in place for 24 hours after the pesticide application or longer if Council deems that the product used requires a longer period of notice);

#### **c) Sporting Fields and Ovals**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a sporting field or oval, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper/council website. Notices prominently displayed at all entrances to the public place and a contact all associations/groups who have booked use of the space;
- During the application of the pesticide (Council will ensure that notices are prominently displayed at all entrances to the public during the application); and
- 24 hours **following** the application (signs will remain in place for 24 hours after the pesticide application or longer if Council deems that the product used requires a longer period of notice);

#### **d) Council Laneways and Pathways**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a council laneway and pathway, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper/council website.

#### **e) Council Drains**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a drain that is owned or maintained by Council, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper/council website.

#### **f) Road Shoulders, Verges and Reserves**

##### **Rural Roads**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a road shoulder, verge or reserve on a rural road that is owned or maintained by Council, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper/council website.
- An annual control program on council website for roadside spraying.

##### **Rural Roads**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a road shoulder, verge or reserve on a rural road that is owned or maintained by Council, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper/council website.

**g) Interiors of Council Buildings (Council Chambers, Public Libraries and Community Halls/Centres)**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council in or around the Council Chambers, a Council Library or Community Centre, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application (notices will be prominently displayed on library or community centre notice boards, and letters will be sent to known users of the community centre);
- **During** the application of the pesticide (Council will ensure that notices are prominently displayed at all entrances to the public during the application); and
- 24 hours **following** the application (signs will remain in place for 24 hours after the pesticide application or longer if Council deems that the product used requires a longer period of notice).

**h) Cemeteries**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to a public cemetery, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper/council website.
- Notices prominently displayed at all entrances to the public place);
- During the application of the pesticide (Council will ensure that notices are prominently displayed at all entrances to the public during the application); and
- 24 hours **following** the application (signs will remain in place for 24 hours after the pesticide application or longer if Council deems that the product used requires a longer period of notice);

**i) Blackberry spraying on Public Land**

Whenever a pesticide is applied by Council to Blackberry bushes on public land, notice will be provided:

- 1 Week **prior** to the pesticides application via an advertisement in the local newspaper/council website, and notices prominently displayed at all entrances to the public place);
- During the application of the pesticide (Council will ensure that notices are prominently displayed at all entrances to the public during the application); and

- 21 days **following** the application (signs will remain in place for 21 days after the pesticide application or longer if Council deems that the product used requires a longer period of notice);

#### **j) Private Property**

- By the landholder via contact of immediate neighbours and owners of sensitive areas nearby, by phone, mail or personal visit.

### **6. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED?**

All forms of notification proposed for the public areas outlined in the Plan (ie. signs, newspaper advertisements, flyers, and letter box drops) will contain the following information:

- The full name of the pesticide used as it is listed on the pesticide label;
- The purpose of the application, including the pest that is being treated;
- Date(s) that the pesticide was applied (or in the case of prior notification, the date on which the pesticide will be applied);
- Product specific warnings on the subsequent use of the land; and
- Contact details for Council and/or the pesticide operator.

### **7. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN**

Council will consult with the community on the draft notification plan, including the types of public places covered and the proposed notification methods. The draft Notification Plan will be placed on public display for four weeks at Council offices and notice will be published in the gazette, the Sydney Morning Herald, and the Southern Weekly, advertising that the Plan is available for public comment. A copy of the Draft Plan will also be available on the council's website.

Council will consider all comments from the community prior to finalising the Plan.

Council will advise residents of the contents of the final Notification Plan by:

- Making a copy of the Plan available for public viewing in Council's libraries;
- Placing a copy of the Plan on the Council website; and
- Including a leaflet in the annual rates notice advising residents of the contents of the Plan and where they can view a copy.

### **8. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THIS PLAN**

The notification Plan will be reviewed every 5 years. The review will include:

- Report on progress of implementing the Notification Plan;
- Public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the Notification Plan; and
- Recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the Notification Plan.

## 9. CONTACT

Anyone wishing to contact Council regarding the Notification Plan or to obtain details of specific details of pesticide applications in public places should contact;

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Southern Slopes Noxious Plants Authority  
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(Work) 02 63 853189  
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(Email) [ssnpa@bigpond.com](mailto:ssnpa@bigpond.com)  
(Web) [www.ssnpa.com.au](http://www.ssnpa.com.au)