



Environmental Management

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

PLANNING FOR OUR PEOPLE OUR PLACE
OUR FUTURE



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1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* (the Regulation). The plan sets out how Cessnock City Council (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.

The aim of this plan is 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 potential contact with pesticides if they wish. Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimizing the risk of harm to the community or the environment.

The plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by the Council to public places.

The plan describes:

- 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 the Council's notification arrangements
- how future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of programmed applications range from:

- 1-3 times per year for sports fields
- 1-3 times per year for parks and gardens
- 3-5 times per year for public thoroughfares
- as per [Council Annual Program](#) for noxious and environmental weeds.

Frequency and timing of applications may need to be varied due to climatic conditions or operational requirements. Bait insecticides will be used for termite and ant control on an 'as required' basis to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodenticides and vertebrate pest baits.

Further information on the Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Council's Weeds Coordinator on (02) 4993 4307 or by visiting Council's website www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

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 that it owns or controls in its Local Government Area (LGA):

- public gardens, parks, playgrounds, picnic areas and commons
- sporting fields and ovals, amenities (change rooms, canteens, storage sheds)
- other public land owned or controlled by the Council including:
 - road verges, laneways, pathways
 - vacant land and reserves
 - water bodies and waterways
- swimming pool buildings and grounds
- waste facilities, including those in use and de-commissioned
- public cemeteries managed by Council
- outside certain Council buildings e.g. libraries, community halls
- sensitive places (as detailed on the following page).

In accordance with the requirements of the Regulation this plan also describes notification procedures in place for sensitive places. The definition of a sensitive place and the provisions of notification when pesticides are used at, or adjacent to, sensitive places are described in Section 4.

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 summarized in the table in Appendix 1 at the end of this plan.

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

Notification to the public of pesticide use can be provided through one, or a combination of:

- signs on the spray vehicle or displayed on site
- emails/letters or letterbox drops
- door knocking
- newspaper articles
- information on Council's website (which will describe programed and reactive pesticide use in public places).

These notification requirements are based on Council's assessment of:

- the level of usage of the public places where the 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 are 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.

Notification arrangements for each of the outdoor public place categories are described in the table in Appendix 1 at the end of this plan.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups, types of pesticide use and notification arrangements in each of these categories of public places is summarized in the table at the end of this 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. 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 equipment.

Algaecides (normally chlorine) are used regularly at the public swimming pools. Council does not intend to provide individual notice of each application of algaecide to the water in the pools.

Special measures for sensitive places

The Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any of the following:

- 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.
(Note: there are no declarations at the time of preparation of this plan).

In addition to providing notification to the occupier of any sensitive place of a proposed pesticide use on that property, Council will also notify the occupiers of a sensitive place of Council's proposed use of a pesticide on an adjoining property.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place are described in the table at the end of this plan.

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places next to sensitive places, Council will provide concurrent notice shortly before use to the occupier by letter, email, telephone or door-knock.

Emergency pesticide applications

In 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 where Council's assets are threatened from an insect attack, 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 by a request to the person applying the pesticide.

Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Council 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, organisations or community groups hold an existing lease, or are the primary users or occupiers of Council land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council requires notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the 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 or 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, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA permit.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Council will advise the community of the plan and its contents by:

- Making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's libraries, the administration building in Vincent Street, Cessnock during office hours and at Council's Works Depot office at Old Maitland Road, Cessnock during office hours.
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council website: www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.
- Placing a notice in The Advertiser and the Newcastle Morning Herald.
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

This Pesticide Notification Plan will be reviewed five years after implementation or as required, e.g. when the relevant legislation is revised or replaced, when pesticide application practices change, or when risk assessments reveal an increased exposure risk to the public.

The review will include the following (where applicable):

- 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 to the plan.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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

The Weeds Coordinator

Phone: (02) 4993 4370

Business hours: (02) 4993 4100

After hours emergency: (02) 4918 1753

Email: barry.shepherd@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

This plan will be available at Council's Administration Centre, 62-78 Vincent Street Cessnock and on Council website www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

8. Appendix 1

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE	NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS <small>(where signs are to be posted, they will be erected near the application area or main entrance)</small>
Public gardens, parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Children • Elderly people • General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers). • Other social groups (e.g. Ethnic, religious, clubs) 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays, particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • broad scale insecticides • fungicide (usually garden beds) • spray/bait insecticides 	<p>Sign to be displayed at gated entry to field, oval, etc. and signage on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Sporting fields and ovals, amenities (change rooms, canteens, storage sheds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations with participants and spectators (mostly weekends). • school sports groups • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers) • informal sports (often children) 	Depending on use for formal events can be very high on some days, low on others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • broad scale insecticides • spray or bait termiticides on facilities • rodenticides near facilities • growth regulators 	<p>Sign to be displayed at gated entry to field, oval, etc. and signage on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>

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Road verges, laneways and pathways (including RTA controlled roads)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public 	Low for rural roads. Medium to high for urban roads & pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • growth regulators • broad scale selective herbicides • spray insecticides 	<p>Signage to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Vacant land & reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush walkers • Recreational walkers, joggers, dog walkers 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • broad scale selective herbicides • spray insecticides 	<p>Signage to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Waterbodies and waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents living adjacent to these areas • visitors who walk past these areas or children playing near these areas/water bodies. 	Low to medium. May be high on weekends, public holidays, school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale selective & non-selective herbicides • spray insecticides 	<p>Notification will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Environment Protection License No.4708 which requires:</p> <p>- notification, at least 3 days and no more than 7 days, prior to spraying.</p>

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE	NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS <small>(where signs are to be posted, they will be erected near the application area or main entrance)</small>
Swimming pool buildings and grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • School carnivals • Lap swimmers. 	Seasonal - very high during warm months. Low in winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spray insecticides • bait insecticides • broad scale insecticides • algaecides (e.g. chlorine) 	<p>Sign to be displayed adjacent to main entrance and signage on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>If possible, spraying will take place when pools are closed</p>
Waste facilities, including those in use and de-commissioned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public • Council staff 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides • broad scale insecticides • bait rodenticides 	<p>Signage to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public • Contract grass mowers • Grave diggers • Monumental masons 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot non-selective herbicides • broad scale selective herbicides • spot insecticides • spray termiticides 	<p>Sign to be displayed adjacent to main entrance and signage on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>Note: No spraying is to be undertaken immediately prior to, or during a funeral service.</p>

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Outside certain Council Buildings. (e.g. Libraries, community Halls, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library users (including children, school groups, and the elderly) • Young children and their carers (childcare facilities) • Parents • Community groups • Church groups • General members of the public 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spray insecticides • bait insecticides • bait rodenticides • Broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides 	<p>Letter, email or telephone call to user groups 1-5 days in advance.</p> <p>Sign to be displayed adjacent to main entrance and signage on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>A door knock to advise any occupants of the building of the commencement of the application of the pesticide will also be undertaken.</p>
Sensitive Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School or pre-school • Kindergarten • Childcare centre • Hospital • Community health centre • Nursing home 	Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spray insecticides • broad scale selective herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • broad scale insecticides • fungicide (usually garden beds) • Bait insecticides • Bait rodenticides 	<p>Notice by letter, email, or telephone call will be provided to a contact person for the occupiers of sensitive places at least one (1) day prior to the application of the pesticide on the property of the sensitive place or on an adjoining property.</p> <p>Sign to be displayed adjacent to main entrance and signage on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>A door knock to advise any occupants of the sensitive place of the commencement of the application of the pesticide will also be undertaken.</p>