



UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

REVISION TABLE

<i>Revision</i>	<i>Details of items revised</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Revised by</i>
1	Initial Draft Adopted	2009	CP & DM
2	Updated Notification Methods and Contact Details	02/05/2013	AF
3	Adopted by Council	23/09/2013	AF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation).

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 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 or the environment.

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

This plan forms a component of Council's Integrated Pest Management Policy. This policy states that Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate noxious 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. Frequency of programmed application range from 6-8 times per year for sports fields, 2-5 times per year for parks and gardens and twice yearly for public thoroughfares. Bait insecticides are used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits. Further information on Council's pesticide can be obtained by calling:

- Trevor Wilson, Urban Works Supervisor Scone/Aberdeen (02) 6540 1115
- James Davis, Works Supervisor Murrurundi (02) 6546 6205
- Richard Hourn, Works Supervisor Merriwa (02) 6548 2109

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 within this Council's local Government area:

- Parks and public gardens
- Landscaped areas around Council Buildings
- Playgrounds

- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Road verges and reserves
- Laneways and pathways
- Easements accessible to the public
- Drains
- Golf courses

This plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Council buildings: Council chambers, libraries, community halls/centres and childcare facilities.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarised in the following table. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

TABLE 1:

<i>Public places owned or controlled by Council</i>	<i>Regular user groups</i>	<i>Level of use of public place</i>	<i>Type of pesticide use</i>
a) Public parks and gardens. Landscaped areas around Council Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young families • Elderly people • General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers, picnickers). • Building users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicide (usually garden beds) • spray termiticides, ant control • bait termiticides, ant control • bait bird control
b) Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • young families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • spray ant control • bait ant control • rabbit baits
c) Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • families • other social groups (e.g. ethnic, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High (particularl y on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • bait rodenticides

<i>Public places owned or controlled by Council</i>	<i>Regular user groups</i>	<i>Level of use of public place</i>	<i>Type of pesticide use</i>
	religious, clubs).	weekend, public holidays and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fungicide (usually on garden beds) • spray termiticides • spray ant control • bait termiticides • bait ant control • bait bird control
d) Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations • school sports groups • general recreation users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • spray or bait termiticides on facilities • rodenticides near facilities
e) Council laneways and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • people who work in the area • visitors to the area 	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides
f) Road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road 	Low for rural roads; Medium to high for urban roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides
g) Easements accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents and people who work in the area 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides
h) Council drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents living adjacent to a drain; • local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadscale non-selective herbicides • spot herbicides
i) Golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amateur and professional golfers 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides

<i>Public places owned or controlled by Council</i>	<i>Regular user groups</i>	<i>Level of use of public place</i>	<i>Type of pesticide use</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicides • spray and bait ant control • large vertebrate baiting
j) Interiors of certain Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly) • young children and their carers (childcare facilities) • parents group/ playgroups • community associations • church groups • general members of the public 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot insecticides • bait rodenticides • spray termiticides • spray ant control • bait termiticides • bait ant control • bait bird control

3.0 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) and 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)
- type of pesticide used

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by combination of:

- signs
- letterbox drops
- door knocking
- phone contact
- Advertisement in local press

Council uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes e.g. fly spray. Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications. 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.

(Note: in the following section of the plan, Council can refer either to categories of public places, or to specific public places. In this worked example, categories have been used.)

TABLE 2:

<i>Public places owned or controlled by Council</i>	<i>Type of pesticide use</i>	<i>Notification Arrangement</i>
a) Public parks and gardens. Land Scaped areas around Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicide (usually garden beds) • spray termiticides, ant control • bait termiticides, ant control • bait bird control 	Erect sign(s) on site as per Appendix 1
b) Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • spray ant control • bait ant control • rabbit baits 	Erect sign(s) on site as per Appendix 1
c) Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • bait rodenticides • fungicide (usually on garden beds) • spray termiticides • spray ant control • bait termiticides • bait ant control • bait bird control 	Erect sign(s) on site as per Appendix 1
d) Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • spray or bait termiticides on facilities • rodenticides near facilities 	Spot Herbicide/ Insecticide/ Bait/ Rodenticide – Erect sign on site. Broadscale selective Herbicide/ Insecticide – Advertise spray program in local press and erect sign(s) on site as per Appendix 1.
e) Council laneways and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides 	Erect sign(s) on site as per Appendix 1

<i>Public places owned or controlled by Council</i>	<i>Type of pesticide use</i>	<i>Notification Arrangement</i>
f) Road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides 	Large “Weed Spraying” sign on truck plus small sign as per Appendix 1
g) Easements accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides 	Large “Weed Spraying” sign on truck plus small sign as per Appendix 1
h) Council drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadscale non-selective herbicides • spot herbicides 	Erect sign(s) on site at per Appendix 1
i) Golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicides • spray and bait ant control • large vertebrate baiting 	Erect sign(s) on site at per Appendix 1
j) Interiors of certain Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot insecticides • bait rodenticides • spray termiticides • spray ant control • bait termiticides • bait ant control • bait bird control 	Notify Building users Supervisor/Manager prior to application. Standard notice will be 24 hours. For sites defined as a ‘sensitive place’ the notice will be as per Table 3 below.

TABLE 3:

Clause 11J(1) of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 defines a sensitive place to be any:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Notice Required</i>
School or pre-school	5 days
Kindergarten	5 days
Childcare centre	5 days
Nursing home	5 days
Tourist information centre	48 Hours
Place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).	48 Hours

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place notification will be by either phone, door knock or email. Notification during the application will be as per Table 2.

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 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, so people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a pest infestation.

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), Council will, where possible, provide notice by erecting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information via its Council info line (Scone (02) 6540 1100, Merriwa (02) 6548 2109, Murrurundi (02) 6546 6205), or by 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 in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses must include **all** 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
- 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.
See Appendix 1.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

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

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its main office at 130 Liverpool Street, Scone during office hours
- placing a copy of the plan on the its website at www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in the Scone Advocate and the Hunter Valley News
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette
- including a leaflet in the annual rates notice advertising residents of the plan and where they can view a copy of it.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years. 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. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Elizabeth Towns
 Work Health & Safety Coordinator
 PO Box 208
 SCONE NSW 2337
 or access the website www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX 1 – STANDARD NOTIFICATION SIGN



PESTICIDE SPRAYING IN PROGRESS

Pesticide product name:

Pest Targeted:

Time/Date of use:

Place pesticide used:

Safe re- entry time:

Contact details: Upper Hunter Shire
 Council Ph: 02 6540 1100



Approximate size 600mm wide by 900mm high.