

WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

2006



WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL *building a better tomorrow!*

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WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

DEFINITION: A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances used to destroy, suppress or alter the life cycle of any pest. These includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides & rodenticides.

Appendix 1. Glossary for a list of terms used in this plan

1. 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 public places. The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides.

The plan sets out how 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. It describes:

- What public places are covered by the plan;
- Who is most likely to use or access public places and an estimate of the level of use;
- How and when Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications (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 and when future reviews of the plan will be conducted; and
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss pesticide notification with Council.

Wyong Shire Council has a legal and moral responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for its staff and all persons using public places. Council is also committed to reducing its impact on the environment in all areas of operations including its maintenance program. Therefore, Council endeavours to select pesticides and methods of application that meet best practice industry standards. In particular, selecting approved, registered pesticides with low toxicity and proven efficacy for the target pest. All pesticide use by Council shall be strictly in accordance with manufacture's directions, as prescribed on product labels and associated Material Safety Data Sheets. Council will ensure that only staff with nationally recognised training in chemical use apply pesticides to public places.

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 the Wyong Local Government area:

Appendix 2. Displays a map of Wyong Local Government Area

- Public parks and gardens
- Shared paths
- Tourist parks & swimming pool grounds
- Playgrounds & BBQ areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Sporting facilities eg. courts, skate and bike facilities
- Bush reserves
- Coastal dune, lake & stream foreshore areas
- Cemeteries
- Road shoulders, verges and road reserves
- Laneways and pathways
- Waste management centres & landfills
- Malls and commercial areas
- Drains and waterways
- Water supply catchments

This notification plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticides applications made to any building, amenities, or structure that is maintained by Council including and not limited too:

- Council Chambers
- Depot
- Libraries
- Community Halls/Centres
- Tourist park facilities
- Swimming Pools
- Sporting Amenities
- Malls
- Public Conveniences & Structures

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.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public parks & gardens, playgrounds & shared paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & young families • Elderly people • General recreational users (eg joggers, dog-walkers, cyclists, skaters, picnickers etc.) • customers 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users with short to medium stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticide • fungicides (usually garden beds) • spray & bait termiticides • spray & bait insect control • rodenticides
Tourist parks, swimming pool & community centre grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & young families • Elderly people • General recreational users • School groups • Holiday makers • General members of the public • Employees 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticide • fungicides (usually garden beds) • spray & bait termiticides • spray & bait ant control • rodenticides
Sporting fields, ovals and other, sporting facilities eg. courts, skate & bike facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting clubs & associations • School sporting groups • General recreational users (eg joggers, dog walkers, cyclists, skaters spectators) 	High-very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticide • spray & bait termiticides on facilities • spray & bait insect control on facilities • rodenticides on or near facilities

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Bush reserves, remote coastal dunes, foreshore reserves, and other natural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landcare groups • General recreational users (eg walkers, cyclist, children, joggers, dog-walkers) 	Low -occasionally medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct application herbicides • spot herbicides • spot insecticide • broadscale selective & non-selective herbicide • vertebrate baiting
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & young families • Elderly people • General recreational users (eg joggers, dog-walkers) 	Low occasionally medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non- selective herbicides • vertebrate baiting
Road verges, shoulders and road reserves	<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 selective herbicides • broadscale non- selective herbicides
Waste management centres & landfills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers • People who work in the area 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticide • spray & bait insect control • rodenticides • vertebrate pest baiting
Laneways, pathways, malls and commercial areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents or visitors walking, dog walking or cycling • People who work in the area 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non- selective herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Drains, constructed wetlands, waterways & water supply catchments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents living adjacent to a drain or waterway; • Local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain or waterway. • Water monitoring groups People who work in the area	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non- selective herbicides
			•
			•
Exteriors & interiors of 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); • Mothers groups/playgroups; • Community associations; • Church & sporting groups • General members of the public • Employees 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • fungicides (usually garden beds) • spray & bait termiticides • spray & bait ant control • bait rodenticides

3. 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 of

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides may be used
- The type of pesticides used
- The extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (eg young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) 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, sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground)

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

- Signs
- Letters
- Fax & email
- Letterbox drops
- Door knocking
- Phone contact
- Newspapers & radio
- Website
- Employees

Council will respond to all reasonable requests for information made to Council concerning pesticide usage.(eg. Provision of Material Safety Data Sheets, copy of Pesticide Label).

How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

3.1 Outdoor Recreation Areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area:

- Public parks and gardens
- Shared paths
- Tourist park, community centre & swimming pool grounds
- Playgrounds & BBQ areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Sporting facilities eg. courts, skate and bike facilities
- Bush reserves
- Coastal dune areas & foreshore areas
- Cemeteries

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance to the site immediately prior to application and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- Direct application herbicides
- Spot herbicides
- Spot insecticides
- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticide
- Fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- Spray & bait termiticides on facilities and trees
- Spray & bait insecticides on or near facilities
- Rodenticides on or near facilities

If a spray vehicle is used, an additional sign will be attached to the vehicle.

Note:

Where any of the above pesticides applications occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition under subsection 3.4- Sensitive Places) the occupiers will be provided with at least 48 hours notice prior to targeted application by whichever notifiable means is most practicable. Council will ensure that the notice is received by a responsible person prior to commencement.

In addition to the notification requirements mentioned above:

- For **sporting fields, ovals and other sporting facilities (eg. courts, skate & bike facilities)** sporting groups and schools that register interest with Council can also have notice of any high volume insecticide or herbicide programmes at least 48 hours prior to application.
- For high use **outdoor recreation areas**, Council will endeavour to schedule spraying activities to coincide with interval periods of low use. If pesticides must be applied during periods of high use and work can not be scheduled for another time, an employee will be present to notify and direct pedestrian movements and prevent access to the area during application or as per product label instructions.
- For **coastal dunes where high volume application of herbicides by aerial spraying** occurs. Special requirements for public notification will apply in this situation. Council will notify the adjacent occupiers of land two weeks prior to target application in writing. Media agencies such as local newspapers and radio shall be used to notify the broader community at least one week prior to target application. Signage shall be installed one week in advance and remain for one week after application. All affected areas shall be secured by what ever means necessary to ensure that persons do not enter the secured area, including flagging tape, barrier boards etc. In addition Council staff will be present to notify and direct pedestrian movements and prevent access to the area during application or as per product label instructions.

3.2 Outdoor public thoroughfares, easements & special facilities accessible to the public

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area:

- Road shoulders, verges and road reserves
- Laneways and pathways
- Waste management centres & landfills
- Malls and commercial areas
- Drains and waterways
- Water supply catchments

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance to the site. Spraying of road shoulders, verges and road reserves shall occur at no more than 2 km from the sign or shall be mounted onto a shadow vehicle when one is in use. Signs shall be installed immediately prior to application and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot herbicides
- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non- selective herbicides
- Spray & bait termiticides on facilities and trees
- Spray & bait insecticides on or near facilities
- Rodenticides

If a spray vehicle is used, an additional sign will be attached to the vehicle.

Note:

Where any of the above pesticides applications occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition under subsection e) Sensitive Places) the occupiers will be provided with at least 48 hours notice prior to targeted application by whichever notifiable means is most practicable. Council will ensure that the notice is received by a responsible person prior to commencement.

3.3 Exteriors and Interiors of Council buildings

For exteriors and interiors of buildings owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance 1 day prior to application and will remain in place for at least 1 day or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot insecticides
- Broadscale insecticide
- Spray & bait termiticides
- Spray & bait insecticide
- Rodenticide

Note:

Where any of the above pesticides applications occur within or adjacent to sensitive places (see definition under subsection 3.4-Sensitive Places) the occupiers will be provided with at least 48 hours notice prior to targeted application by whichever notifiable means is most practicable. Council will ensure that the notice is received by a responsible person prior to commencement

3.4 Sensitive Places

Clause 11J(1) of the *Pesticides Regulation* defines sensitive places to be any:

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

Where any of the above pesticides applications occur within or adjacent to sensitive places (see definition under subsection 3.4-Sensitive Places) the occupiers will be provided with at least 48 hours notice prior to targeted application by whichever notifiable means is most practicable. Council will ensure that the notice is received by a responsible person prior to commencement

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, immediately prior to application.

3.5 Special Notification Measures Baits to Control Vertebrate Pests

Poison baits used for vertebrate pest control are generally classified as restricted pesticides and have special requirements for public notification. Notification for poison baits to control vertebrate pests vary according to the product used. Which may include requirements to notify adjacent property owners in writing or broader community notification by providing information to media agencies such as local newspapers or radio. Signage may be required to be installed well in advance and remain for several weeks after treatments. For vertebrate pest baiting, Council shall comply with specific notification requirements detailed on the product label or as advised by either the Rural Lands Protection Board or the Environmental Protection Authority.

3.6 Special Notification Measures Chemical Allergies & Hypersensitivity

Persons diagnosed with Chemical Allergies, Hypersensitivity to Chemicals or Immunodeficiency Illnesses can register interest with Council. Registered interested parties will be provided with at least 48 hours notice where pesticide use occurs adjacent to the occupancy of that person prior to targeted application. Notification will be provided by whichever means is most practicable to that situation. This will allow the interested party to avoid exposure to the pesticide use. Council will ensure that the notice is received by the interested party prior to commencement.

3.7 Notification of Emergency Pesticide Applications

Where any pesticide use occurs in any public place categories.

In cases where emergency pesticide applications are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, fleas and venomous spiders. Or where pest animals or insects are or may cause significant damage to Council assets; Council will erect signs near the application area or main entrance immediately prior to application and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements, for the following pesticide uses:

- Low or high volume spraying of insecticides

A sign will also be attached to the spray vehicle during operations.

3.8 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 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.

3.9 Types of Pesticide Use For Which No Notice Will Be Provided

Small Scale Exemption

Where Council staff or any persons guided or directed by Council use a small quantity of pesticide that is 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 the plan providing that all of the following conditions can be met:

- The pesticide is ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening),
- It is widely available to the general public at retail outlets (e.g. supermarkets or hardware stores),
- The pesticide is applied by hand or a hand held applicator,
- In the case of outdoor use, no more than 20 litres or 20 kilograms of "ready to use" product, or 5 kilograms of concentrate product is used,
- In the case of indoor use, you use no more than 5 litres or 5 kilograms of "ready to use" product, or 1 litre or 1 kilograms of concentrate product.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED?

All forms of notification proposed for the public areas outlined in the plan(i.e. signs, newspaper advertisement, flyers and letterbox drops) will contain the following information in accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticide Regulations:

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

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

5. 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 (4) weeks at Council's Main Office, 16 Hely Street, Wyong, during office hours.
- on public display for four (4) weeks at all Council Customer Service Centres and libraries.
- on Council's web site at www.wyong.nsw.gov.au
- a notice will be published in the Express Advocate - Wyong Edition, advising that the plan is available for public comment and where it can be viewed.

Council will consider all comments from the community prior to finalising the Plan. Once the draft plan is finalised; Council will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge at Council's main office, 16 Hely Street, Wyong.
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council's Website at: www.wyong.nsw.gov.au
- Placing a notice in the Express Advocate – Wyong edition
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

Council must also notify Department of Environment and Conservation NSW in writing that the plan has been finalised and whether or not the plan was prepared, exhibited and notified in accordance with the Pesticides Regulations.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THIS PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every three (3) 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 submission
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7. COUNCIL 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 the Customer Service Centre.

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY – Sourced from <http://www/epa.nsw.gov.au/envirom/pestwhtr.htm>)

Algicides – These are pesticides used specifically for controlling algae blooms, for example in waterways.

Bactericides – These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of bacteria. Examples are swimming pool chemicals containing chlorine and products used to control black spot (bacterial blight) on garden plants or in orchards. Disinfectants for household and industrial use are excluded and are not considered pesticides.

Baits – These are ready-prepared products or products which need to be mixed with a food to control a pest. This category includes baits for insects, such as cockroaches and ants.

Direct application – Method of applying concentrated liquid immediately onto target, for example cut and paint technique whereby concentrated herbicide is directly painted onto the cut stump of a plant, or drill and fill technique whereby holes are drilled in woody stump and filled with a small volume of concentrated herbicide.

Fungicides – These control, destroy, render ineffective or regulate the effect of a fungus, for example, fungicides are used to treat grey mould on grape vines and fruit trees.

Herbicides – These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of a weed or other unwanted vegetation, for example, the herbicide glyphosate is used to control a range of weeds in home gardens, bushland and agricultural situations.

High volume spraying – Method of applying a high volume of a liquid through the use of motorised mechanical pump.

Insecticides – these destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by, an insect. Insecticides are used to control a wide variety of insect pests, including thrips, aphids, moths, fruit flies and locusts. In NSW, pesticides include products such as flea powders and liquids used externally on animals. Injections or other medicines administered internally to treat animals are veterinary medicines and are excluded.

Low volume spraying – Method of applying a low volume of a liquid using a hand pump applicator.

Lures – These are chemicals that attract a pest to a pesticide for the purpose of its destruction. Solely food-based lures, for example cheese in a mousetrap, are excluded and are not considered pesticides.

Rodenticides – These are pesticides used specifically for controlling rodents such as mice and rats.

Repellents – These repel rather than destroy a pest included in this category are personal insect repellents used to repel biting insects.

Sensitive place – school or pre-school, kindergarten, childcare centre, hospital, community health centre, nursing homes, or any additional place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation), as declared under clause 11J (1) of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 NSW.

Termiticides – These are pesticides used specifically for controlling termites, which may be applied as a spray or deployed as bait.

APPENDIX 2
MAP OF WYONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

