

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION PLAN 2024



Pesticide Notification Plan

Name	Pesticide Notification Plan			
Version Number	2			
Authoriser	Director Engineering & Operations			
Date	11 June 2024			
Review Timeframe	Five years			
Policy Owner	Civic & Open Space Coordinator			
CM10 Folder #	SC83			
CM10 Document #	24/44088			
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	Public Interest Disclosures Policy			
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	Pesticides Act 1999 Pesticides Regulation 2017 Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022			
VERSION HISTORY				
Version No	Date	Revision details	Modified by	Amendments made
2	11 June 2024	Five year review	Director Engineering & Operations	Five year review

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1. INTRODUCTION

Strathfield Council's Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Act 1999 and Pesticides Regulation 2017, as amended.

Council's Pesticide Use Notification Plan was first adopted on 5 June 2007 by Council following public exhibition from 2 April 2007 to 2 May 2007.

The plan has been revised in accordance with review provisions in the plan. The amended plan was exhibited from 13 May 2024 to 10 June 2024. The amended plan was adopted on the 11 June 2024.

Pesticides are defined in Section 5 of the *Pesticides Act 1999* (Act) as:

- (a) an agricultural chemical product within the meaning of the Agvet Code, or
- (b) a veterinary chemical product (within the meaning of the Agvet Code) that is represented as being suitable for, or is manufactured, supplied or used for, the external control of ectoparasites of animals.

Note. The Agvet Code defines an "agricultural chemical product" to be a substance or a mixture of substances that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:

- (a) destroying, stupefying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by or attacks of, any pest in relation to a plant, a place or a thing, or
- (b) destroying a plant, or
- (c) modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity, or
- (d) modifying an effect of another agricultural chemical product, or
- (e) attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.

The term also includes insect repellants for use on human beings.

For the purposes of this Act, a pesticide continues to be regarded as a pesticide even when it is mixed with some other substance (whether or not the other substance is a pesticide). However, a pesticide does not include a prescribed mixture or a mixture of a prescribed class or description.

Note. Subsection (2) generally deals with the situation where a pesticide is diluted, or is mixed, before being used. The effect of the provision is that the mixing of a pesticide does not mean that it is no longer a pesticide.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Plan is to provide the community with information on the use of pesticide applications in outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by Strathfield Council. The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid or minimise contact with pesticides.

Council ensures that pesticides are applied to outdoor public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community, staff and the environment. This includes appropriate training for all staff, contractors, and volunteers handling, storing and applying pesticides. All contractors and volunteers must follow all legislative requirements in regards to pesticides and their use. The Plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community about pesticide application made by Council, its contractors, or volunteers 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 Council's notification arrangements.
- contact details for anyone wanting more information on the Plan.

Council has a statutory responsibility to manage infrastructure and public assets responsibly on behalf of the community. Weed and pest control programs form part of Council's parks and facilities maintenance programs, and use of pesticides are an essential component of many of these programs.

Council's pest management programs aim to apply best practice, humane and cost effective methods that will have minimal impacts on the environment. Wherever possible, an integrated approach is adopted that uses a range of techniques. Herbicides applied in various ways, are an essential component of most weed control programs undertaken by Council e.g. bush regeneration application techniques such as cutting and painting or stem injection of woody weeds, foliar spot-spraying.

Council uses pesticides when necessary to control weeds, insects, feral and pest animals, to protect property from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger. All control activities are carried out in accordance with pesticide labelling requirements, safety data sheets (SDS) and all legislative requirements e.g. permits. It is the intention of this plan that all pesticides used by Strathfield Council are registered for use in NSW, regulated by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and are used appropriately according to legislative requirement and best practice.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. The frequency of pesticide application will vary depending on the type of pesticide being used, time of year, location, label and other legislative requirements.

3. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THE PLAN

Council proposes to use, or allow the use of, pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places within the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA):

- public parks, reserves, bushland and gardens
- playground areas within public parks
- sportsgrounds, ovals and related sporting facilities
- public roads including footpaths, lane/pathways, cycle ways, road reserves and nature strips
- golf driving range
- areas surrounding Council buildings

The Plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in all of the above areas, including those areas adjacent to sensitive places as defined in the Regulation.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public places categories is summarised in the following table. A summary of the likely or generic type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

Public Places	Regular User Groups	Level of use of public place	Type of Pesticide
Public parks, reserves, bushland and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General recreational users • Children and families • Seniors • Walkers • Dog walkers 	Medium-high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective spot herbicides or insecticides • Selective or non-selective herbicides or insecticides • Fungicides • Spray termiticides • Spray ant control • Bait termiticides • Spray ant control • Rodenticides
Picnic and outdoor eating areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Social groups • Sporting groups • General community users 	Medium-high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective spot herbicides or insecticides • Selective or non-selective herbicides or insecticides • Fungicides • Termiticides • Spray ant control
Playground areas in public parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Children • General community users 	Medium-high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective spot herbicides or insecticides • Selective or non-selective herbicides

Public Places	Regular User Groups	Level of use of public place	Type of Pesticide
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • or insecticides • Fungicides • Termiticides • Spray ant control
Sportsgrounds, ovals and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local schools • Sports clubs • General recreational users 	High (usually based on seasonal use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective spot herbicides or insecticides • Selective or non-selective herbicides or insecticides • Termiticides • Rodenticides
Public roads including footpaths, lane/pathways, cycleways, road reserves and nature strips (verges)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkers • Residents surrounding • General recreational users • Cyclists • Dog walkers 	Medium-High (varies depending on location and traffic volume)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective spot herbicides or insecticides • Selective or non-selective herbicides or insecticides • Termiticides • Rodenticides
Areas surrounding Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors and Council employees • General community 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides or insecticides • Insecticides • Fungicides • Termiticides • Rodenticides

4. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the Plan describes how and when Council (either through its staff, contractors or volunteers) will provide notice of pesticide used in public places, including special measures for sensitive places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on Council's consideration of the following matters:

- areas have high visitor use e.g. playgrounds, sportsgrounds and popular parks with BBQ or picnic areas.
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (e.g. vulnerable community members) and their likely use of these areas.
- the possibility of direct contact with pesticides (e.g. sporting or other recreational activities that may involve ground contact).

As required, notification of pesticide use will be provided by signage at the location of the pesticide use. Additional notification may include:

- a) information on Council's website
- b) letters
- c) email
- d) letterbox drops
- e) door knocking
- f) phone contact
- g) signage on tractors 'spraying in progress'

5. USE OF SMALL QUANTITIES

In some circumstances Council uses small quantities of (up to 20 litres of mixed solution) of 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 the way of this description in the plan or general information on Council's website. This will also apply to minor control of outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held applicator.

6. CATEGORIES

a. Outdoor Recreation Areas

The notification arrangement described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the LGA:

- public parks, reserves, bushland and gardens
- picnic and outdoor eating areas
- playgrounds within public parks
- sportsgrounds, ovals and related sporting facilities
- golf driving range
- areas surrounding Council buildings

In these public places, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance prior to commencing the application and may remain in place up to 28 days afterwards (depending on the pesticide labelling requirements) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot insecticides
- selective or non-selective herbicides
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control
- termiticides (where part of an ongoing program, from commencement of program)
- rodenticide (where part of an ongoing program, from commencement of program)

Information will be available to the general community on Council's website about the programmed applications for the above applications, where available. This Plan notes that programmed applications can change due to weather conditions and other factors, therefore the most reliable and accurate notification is on-site signage.

- b. Public roads including footpaths, lane/pathways, cycle ways, road reserves and nature strips

The notification arrangements described below will apply to public roads including footpaths, cycleways, road reserves and nature strips owned or controlled by Council within the Strathfield LGA.

In these public places, information on the annual program for use of herbicide and pesticides will be posted on Council's website, where available. Signs will be displayed on the day of application for the following pesticide uses:

- selective spot herbicides or insecticides
- selective or non-selective herbicides or insecticides
- termiticides
- rodenticides

Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their properties.

- c. Special Measures for Sensitive Places

'Sensitive places' include:

- school, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre
- hospital, community health centre or nursing home
- areas with endangered or threatened species such as Green & Golden Bellfrog
- places declared to be a sensitive place by the Environmental Protection Authority by order published in the Gazette
- waterways

Notification measures for programmed pesticides use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place are set out in Clause 3 of this policy.

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places next to sensitive places, Council will provide signage notification.

7. EMERGENCY PESTICIDE APPLICATION

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 posting signs nearby at the time of the application. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed or a longer period where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires longer period of signage.

8. PESTICIDE CONTRACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

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.

In the event that pesticides are used by volunteers in programs such as Bushcare, Council will ensure that volunteers are appropriately trained to apply small quantities of herbicide within their allocated work sites. Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan.

All contractors and volunteers must follow all legislative requirements in regards to pesticides and their use.

9. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

Notices or signs of pesticide use 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 place 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 of 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.

Council's website will include information on Council's pesticides program and a copy of this Plan.

10. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Council will advise residents of the contents of the Plan and its contents by placing a copy of the Plan on the Council website at www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au

11. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

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

- placing the Plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes and calling for public submissions
- consideration of public submissions and alterations to the draft Plan (if applicable) prior to adoption of amendments.
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12. CONTACT COUNCIL

Further information on Council's Pesticide Notification Plan can be obtained by contacting the Civic and Open Space Coordinator on 9748 9999, email: council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au or by visiting the Council website at www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au for information on Council's pesticides use.