

LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL



PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

THIRD EDITION

The Pesticide Use Notification Plan was adopted by Lockhart Shire Council on:

- 12th February 2007 (Resolution Number 23/07) – First Edition
- 17th February 2014 (Resolution Number 28/14) – Second Edition
- 15th June 2017 (Reviewed) – Third Edition

1. INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (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 Lockhart Shire Council. 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 sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by 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 Council's notification arrangements;
- how future reviews of the Plan will be conducted; and
- the contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this Plan with Council.

This Plan forms a component of Council's integrated pest management policy. This Plan 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 applications range from 6–8 times per year for sporting fields, 2–5 times per year for parks and gardens and twice yearly for public thoroughfares.

Insecticides are used for termite control to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodenticides, molluscicides, and herbicides. Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by contacting Lockhart Shire Council via the details listed in Section 6.

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 within this Council's local government area:

- parks and public gardens;
- playgrounds;
- picnic areas;
- sporting fields and ovals;
- road verges and reserves;
- laneways and pathways;
- easements accessible to the public; and
- drains.

This Plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following public buildings: council chambers and community halls/centres.

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.

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• children and young families• elderly people• general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers).	Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spot herbicides• spot insecticides (ants and termites)• broadscale, selective and non-selective herbicides and insecticides• fungicides (usually garden on beds)
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• children• young families	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spot herbicides• spot insecticides (ants and termites)

Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> families other social groups (eg. ethnic, religious, clubs) 	High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides spot insecticides (ants and termites) fungicides (usually on garden beds) fumigants (rabbits) feral animal baiting (foxes and rabbits)
Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sporting clubs and associations school sports groups general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides and insecticides broadscale, selective and non-selective herbicides and insecticides spray insecticides on facilities rodenticides near facilities
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
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
Easements accessible to the public (specifically road, sewer or electricity)	<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 herbicide
Council drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local residents local residents living adjacent to a drain visitors who walk or drive past a drain 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> broadscale, non-selective herbicides spot herbicides
Interiors of certain Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community associations church groups general members of the public 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot insecticides bait rodenticides spray insecticides for ant control

3. 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 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 where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground); and
- the type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of:

- signs;
- letters;
- phone contact; and
- information on Council's website.

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the 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 sprays, spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray, or a jet nozzle.

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 (LGA):

- public parks and gardens;
- playgrounds;
- picnic areas; and
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities.

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds); or
- sprays for termites and ant control;
- rodenticides near facilities;
- molluscicides for snail control;
- feral animal baits (foxes and rabbits).

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places', under section 3.4) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

3.2 Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public

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

- laneways and pathways;
- road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths;
- road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public; and
- drains.

In these public places, information on the forward program for broadscale herbicide will be posted on Council's website every 3 months. For drains only, information on the forward program for use of herbicides will also be included in Council's regular box advertisements in local newspapers every three months. A letterbox drop of adjacent properties will occur at least 5 days before the expected date or dates of broadscale herbicide application for those parties who register their interest with Council.

Information on the programmed and reactive spot use of herbicides will also be posted on Council's website every three months. Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, adjacent to sensitive places, and/or for parties who register interest with Council, prior notice by mail or letterbox drop will be provided at least 5 days beforehand.

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.

3.3 Certain Council buildings

For pesticide use in Council chambers, community halls and centres and childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- spot use of insecticides;
- bait rodenticides;
- sprays for termites; or
- sprays for ant control.

3.4 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 18 of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school;
- kindergarten;
- childcare centre;
- hospital;
- community health centre;
- nursing home; or
- place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place have already been noted.

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 dangerous pest infestation.

3.5 Emergency pesticide applications

An emergency pesticide application in a public place may be required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites, rodents or similar creatures that pose an immediate health hazard. In these situations 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 request to the person applying the pesticide.

3.6 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.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the Pesticides Regulation 2009, notices 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; and
- 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.

5. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed at least every five years to maintain its effectiveness and relevancy.

6. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Manager of Environmental Services
65 Green Street
LOCKHART NSW 2656
Phone: (02) 6920 5305
Fax: (02) 6920 5247
Email: mail@lockhart.nsw.gov.au
Or access the website: www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au