

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

POLICY ADOPTED: 21 August 2012

1. POLICY OBJECTIVE:

1.1 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 Bland Shire Council. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish.

The term 'pesticide' is applied to chemicals used to kill pests and minimise their impact on agriculture, health and other human interests. Pesticides are often classified according to the organisms which they are used to control, e.g. fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, molluscicides, rodenticides, baits, repellents etc.

Council ensures that staff and contractors adopt best management practices in the application of pesticides to public places minimising harm to the community or the environment. Examples of best management practices include:

- Pesticide applications are carried out only by competent staff
- Using pesticides only when necessary
- Using only those pesticides recommended for the purpose
- Following instructions on the label correctly
- Operating under favourable weather conditions
- Ensuring the health and safety of the general public and operators

The majority of pesticide use by Council staff and contractors consists of the application of herbicides for weed control (noxious weeds, catheads etc in town areas), and to a much lesser extent applying insecticides to manage insect pests (Black beetles in lawns, ants, locusts etc). The seasonal conditions and prevailing weather conditions have a major impact on how and when control work is carried out.

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.

1.2 The plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the plan
- Who regularly uses these public places and an estimated level of use
- How and when Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places
- How the community can access this plan for more information
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted

- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council
- Council's notification arrangements

2. POLICY STATEMENT:

2.1 Objective

To ensure the community are given adequate notification and information on pesticide applications in public areas that are owned or controlled by Bland Shire Council.

3. DEFINITIONS:

“**Prescribed public place**” means land or areas to which the public is entitled to have access to.
 “**Sensitive place**” is any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES:

This plan applies to residents and visitors to the Bland Shire Council local government area.

4.1 Prescribed Public Places Covered By This Plan

Bland Shire 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 Local Government area:

- Public parks, playground and garden areas
- Sporting facilities, fields and ovals
- Showgrounds
- Pathways / nature strips
- Town laneways
- Cemeteries
- Swimming pools
- Kerbs and gutters
- Drains
- Road shoulders and reserves
- Rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
- Airport
- Saleyards
- Caravan park
- Dog pound
- Vacant Council and Crown land.
- Council Landfills

4.2 Identified Public Places and User Group Impacts

Bland Shire Councils 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 group and purpose	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public park, playground and garden areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Children · Families · Elderly people · Recreational users (e.g. joggers etc) · Various Clubs and other Groups · Staff & Contractors 	Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Broad scale selective herbicides · Broad scale insecticides · Fungicide (garden beds etc) · Spray or bait termiticides & ant controls
Sporting facilities, fields and ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sport clubs and associations · School groups · General public · Spectators · Staff & Contractors 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Spot spray fungicide · Broad scale selective herbicides · Broad scale non-selective herbicides · Broad scale insecticide · Spray or bait termiticides & ant controls · Vermin controls
Road shoulders and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Local residents · Walkers and joggers · Staff & Contractors 	Low (rural roads) Medium (urban roads)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Broad scale non-selective herbicide · Vermin controls
Pathways/Nature strips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Local residents · Walkers and joggers · Visitors · Staff & Contractors 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides
Rail, drainage utility easements accessible to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Walkers · Maintenance staff 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides
Camping grounds and caravan parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Visitors and families · Maintenance staff · Campers 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides
Showgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sporting clubs · Families · Maintenance staff · Animals 	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Local residents · School groups · Visitors/tourists · Staff & contractors 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Vertebrate pest control
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Local residents · Visitors · Staff & Contractors 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Vermin control

Public places	Regular user group and purpose	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Saleyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Farmers · Livestock Agents and buyers · Staff & Contractors · Truck drivers · Livestock 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides
Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pilots · Passengers · Maintenance staff 	Low to med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Boom spray herbicides · Vermin control (baiting rabbits etc)
Town laneways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Residents 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides
Animal pound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Staff & Contractors · General public · Dogs and cats 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Broad scale selective herbicides · Vermin controls
Vacant Council and Crown land under Council control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · General public · Bush walkers · Staff & Contractors 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Broad scale selective herbicides · Broad scale non-selective herbicides · Broad scale insecticides · Vermin controls
Council Depots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Staff & Contractors · Local residents 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spot spray herbicides · Spot spray insecticides · Vermin controls
Council Landfills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Local residents · Staff & Contractors 	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Broad scale non-selective herbicides · Spot spray herbicides

5. RECOMMENDED PRACTICES:

5.1 Notification Arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Bland Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive areas 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 Bland Shire Council's assessment of:

- The type and 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 are likely to use these areas
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some contact with pesticides

- Type of pesticides used.

5.2 Community Register

Council will 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.

5.3 Where Notification is Not Provided

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 notification for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan (or general information on Council's website), but staff will respond to all reasonable requests for information from members of the community.

This will apply to minor control of outdoor insect pests using, baits, powders or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a knapsack and wand or hand-held spray bottle. This will also apply to general minor applications of Glyphosate.

5.4 How and When Notice of Pesticide Use Will Be Provided

Notice of pesticide use may be provided by a combination of one or more of the following:

- Signage
- Notice in Council's advertisement space of the West Wyalong Advocate
- Information on Council's website
- Letters, Fax or email
- Letterbox drops
- Door knocking
- Telephone contact

*(Note: in the following section of the plan, Council has referred to **categories** of public places)*

5.5 Outdoor Recreation Areas and Open Spaces

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

- Public parks and gardens
- Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities
- Swimming pools
- Showgrounds.
- Cemeteries

In these public places, signs will be erected near the application area or main entrance, at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards or as per recommended re-entry period for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot spray selective or non-selective herbicides on more than 5 square metres in total area.
- Spot spray insecticides on more than 2 square metres in total area
- Broad scale selective herbicides
- Broad scale non-selective herbicides

- Broad scale insecticides
- Spot spray fungicides on more than 2 square metres in total area.

5.6 Outdoor Public Thoroughfares, Facilities and Certain Easements Accessible to the Public

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

- Laneways,
- Pathways/nature strips
- Kerbs and gutters
- Road shoulders and reserves
- Rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
- Vacant council, crown land
- Drains
- Airport
- Caravan Park
- Dog pound
- Sale yards.

In these public places, information on the forward program for broad scale herbicide use will be posted on Councils' website and placed in Council's regular advertisement box of the West Wyalong Advocate.

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of '**sensitive places**', under subsection (3.6) **Special measures for sensitive places**) the occupiers will be provided with 24 hours prior targeted notice by phone door-knock or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

Sporting groups, occupiers of adjacent sensitive places and any member of the general community who registers interest with Council, can also have notice of the above pesticide uses, faxed, emailed or phoned at least 24 hours prior to application.

5.7 Special Measures for Sensitive Places

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

- School, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre
- Hospital, community health centre or nursing home
- Any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) by order published in the Gazette.

Special notification measures for programmed 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.

5.8 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 posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information via Council's phone number or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

5.9 Pesticide Contractors & 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.

5.10 What Information Will Be Provided

In accordance with the Pesticides Regulation, notices of pesticide use will include all of 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 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.

5.11 How The Community Will Be Informed Of This Plan

Bland Shire Council will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, at its main office at Council Chambers, Shire Street, West Wyalong
- Placing a copy of the plan on its website
- Placing a notice in the West Wyalong Advocate
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

1.

5.12 Future Reviews Of The Plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every three years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include a report on progress of implementing the plan

6. REFERENCES:

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009, under the Pesticides Act 1999.

7. APPENDICE

7.1 Sample Notice of Pesticide Application

BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Pesticide Use Notification

CONTACT: 02 69722266 or council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au

PROPOSED DATE OF TREATMENT: 20-8-12

PURPOSE: Weed Control

PRODUCT NAME: Roundup Herbicide

ON DAY AND TIME OF TREATMENT THIS AREA SHOULD BE AVOIDED FROM BETWEEN THE HOURS OF: 9.00am – 5.00pm

DATE OF NOTICE: 19-8-12

8. AUTHORISATION:

Status	Committee	N/A	
	Manex	N/A	
Owner	Director Engineering Services		
EDRMS Doc. ID	365931		
Superceded Policy			
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Review Date
20 February 2007	0	31/2/07	3 years
21 August 2012	1		August 2015

Related Council Policy / Procedure