

# Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2023

## 1. Purpose of Policy

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the 'Regulation'). Pesticides are defined as any pest-eradication compound, including insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, baits, bactericides, repellents, and rodenticides.

The aim of this Plan is to fulfil Council's obligation to inform the community about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by Northern Beaches Council. The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they wish. Northern Beaches Council aims to ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible, and humane manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

This Plan outlines how Northern Beaches Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes to public areas. The plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the Plan
- Who regularly uses these places and an estimate of the level of use
- How and when Northern Beaches Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (i.e., what notification arrangements will be used, including pesticide uses and circumstances where no notification will be provided)
- 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

Northern Beaches Council manages a wide variety of public places from playgrounds, bushland reserves and sporting ovals to facilities such as swimming pools, community halls and libraries. Council has an obligation to manage these areas in a safe manner to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all users. Weed and pest control programs are an essential component of this.

Council is committed to an environmental best practice approach to managing public land and the environment. Council uses an integrated approach to pest management, including use of non-chemical pest control options where they are feasible and effective. New techniques are also investigated when they become available or when situations require innovative solutions.

The majority of pesticide use consists of programmed and supplementary reactive application of herbicides for control of weeds, such as Bindi and Clover, in developed park settings as well as the use of bush regeneration weed control techniques which includes cutting-and-painting, stem injection of woody weeds and spot-spraying in bushland settings. 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 may also include fungicides, algaecides, insecticides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by contacting Northern Beaches Council on 1300 434 434 or visiting Council's website at [www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au).

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## 2. Public Places Covered by this Plan

Northern Beaches Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls within the Northern Beaches Council Local Government Area (LGA):

- **Community Land-park and general community use including:**
  - Gardens
  - Playgrounds
  - Picnic areas
- **Community Land-natural area including:**
  - Bushland reserves
  - Foreshore areas such as sand dunes
  - Wetlands
  - Watercourses
- **Community Land-sportsground including:**
  - Playing fields and courts
  - Golf courses
  - Playing field and golf course surrounds
- **Other public landowners, managed or controlled by Northern Beaches Council including:**
  - Crown Land reserves
  - Commercial areas maintained by Council
  - Road verges and reserves
  - Laneways and pathways
  - Drains
  - Roads, fire trails, utility, or other easements accessible to the public
  - Outdoor and indoor public space associated with Council buildings and community facilities.

Although not required by the Regulation, this Notification Plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Northern Beaches Council buildings: council chambers, libraries, community halls, centres and meeting rooms, childcare facilities.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticides used for each of these public places is summarised in the table below.



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PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE
<b>Public parks, gardens, and reserves</b>	The local community (families, children), visitors, recreational users, school groups, recreational users' contractors, and Council employees	Seasonally variable, high level of use in regional and district locations, low levels of use in local reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spot spraying of non-selective herbicides and insecticides</li><li>• Broad scale applications of programmed selective pesticides (weed control in high use areas e.g., parks adjacent to beaches)</li><li>• Spray and bait and control and termiticides</li><li>• Baiting for rodents</li></ul>
<b>Bushland reserves, headlands, dunes, creek/wetland reserves and waterways</b>	Bushcare groups, volunteers, general public, contractors, bushwalkers	Medium to low use, restricted or limited to walking and fire trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large Pest Animal baiting (e.g., fox control)</li><li>• Spot spraying of selective and non-selective herbicides</li><li>• Cut and paint techniques, stem injection</li></ul>
<b>Playing fields and courts</b>	The general public including recreational users, sporting clubs and school groups, contractors, and Council employees	Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spot spraying of selective and non-selective herbicides</li><li>• Broad scale applications of programmes selective pesticides for weed and insect control</li></ul>
<b>Playgrounds and picnic areas</b>	Families, children, general public, seniors	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spot spray herbicides</li><li>• Spot spray insecticides</li><li>• Broadscale selective herbicides</li><li>• Fungicide (garden beds)</li><li>• Rodenticides</li></ul>

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<b>Road verges and reserves, laneways, easements</b>	The general public, contractors, utility companies and Council employees	High to low use depending on space e.g., council buildings are high use, laneways may be low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot spraying of selective and non-selective herbicides and insecticides</li> <li>• Spray and bait and control and termiticides</li> <li>• Rodenticides in or near facilities</li> <li>• Large pest animal baiting</li> </ul>
<b>Golf Courses, Bowling Clubs (owned or controlled by authority) and other sporting facilities (golf driving range)</b>	General public and members	High to low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot spray herbicides</li> <li>• Spot spray insecticides</li> <li>• Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• Broadscale insecticides and fungicides</li> <li>• Rodenticides</li> <li>• Spray and bait ant control</li> </ul>
<b>Rock pools and tidal pools</b>	General public, schools, sporting clubs, local residents	High to low, seasonally dependant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spray algaecide</li> </ul>
<b>Cemeteries</b>	General public, local residents	Medium to low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot spray herbicides</li> <li>• Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>• Broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• Large pest animal baiting</li> </ul>
<b>Vacant Crown Land</b>	General public	Medium to low (area dependant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot spray herbicides</li> <li>• Large pest animal baiting</li> </ul>
<b>Interiors of public buildings</b>	General public, school groups, sporting clubs, local residents	High to low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot spray insecticides</li> <li>• Bait termiticides</li> <li>• Bait rodenticides</li> </ul>

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## 3. Notification arrangements- general

This section of the plan describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places covered by this plan. It also considers notification for particular situations including:

- 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 Councils consideration of the following parameters within a framework of risk assessment:

- The level of usage and accessibility of public places where pesticides may be used (noting that some sites are less used and less accessible reducing the likelihood of contact if any (i.e., bushland sites undergoing regeneration)
- The capacity of Council to control access to public places during pesticide applications
- The extent to which activities undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides or the action of applying pesticides.
- The extent to which members of the general public, contractors and Council staff are sensitive to pesticide applications, in particular young, sick, pregnant, and elderly people.
- The type, volume, toxicity, and residual capacity of pesticides used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided through a communications package including one or more of the following:

- Information on Councils website and local print media where possible
- Messages through appropriate social media such as Facebook
- The erection or placement of signs at entrances of public places
- Postage of letters and letter box drops where appropriate.
- Through the media via Councils notice pages
- Phone contact to primary users of areas

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.

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## 4. Notification arrangements – detailed

**Community Land-** Park and general community use including gardens, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

A list of all sites scheduled for programmed pesticide applications will be advertised on Councils website and in local print media where possible approximately 1 month prior to applications. In addition, temporary signs will be placed at entrances to parks, playgrounds and picnic areas categorised as regional and sub-regional, where visitation is high, at least 48 hours prior to application and remain on site for an additional 48 hours afterwards.

For pesticide treatment of areas that are used infrequently, or where a pesticide is Schedule 5 or lower in accordance with the Poisons Standard, signs will be restricted to that required during application and remain until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species. Further information is available by contacting Councils Customer Service Centre as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan.

Dye may be added to herbicides applied by way of aerosol spray cans and spot weed/grass control using a wand or backpack/handheld spray bottle and low voltage Ute pack sprayer, hand-held applicator, or by cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques. Dye may only be used in vegetated areas (e.g., gardens, grass, and bushland). They will not be used on hard surfaces such as footpaths, drains or other civil infrastructure.

Where the community has nominated to be contacted when applications are made at certain locations, this will be done via social media messaging, email or other preferred form of contact 48 hours prior to application.

### **Community Land- Natural Areas**

In these areas the method of notification will vary. For pesticide treatment in frequently used locations, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated as described above.

For pesticides covered by a Pesticide Control Order, notification will be as specified in the relevant Order, unless the Order does not specify all of the information required by the Pesticides Regulation. If the latter occurs, signs and/or notices will also provide the information required by the Pesticides Regulation or other relevant legislation.

For pesticide treatment of areas that are used infrequently, or where a pesticide is Schedule 5 or lower in accordance with the Poisons Standard, signs will be restricted to that required during application and remain until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species, or as per label directions. Further information is available by contacting Councils Customer Service Centre as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan. Dye may also be added to sprays in situations described above.

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## Community Land- Sportsgrounds

Most pesticide applications occur as part of Councils planned maintenance programs. A list of all sites scheduled for programmed pesticide applications will be advertised on Councils website and in local print media where possible approximately 1 month prior to application. In addition, temporary signs will be placed at entrances of sports fields, ovals and other sporting facilities including hard courts categorised as regional and sub-regional, where visitation is high, at least 48 hours prior to application and remain on site for an additional 48 hours afterwards.

For pesticide treatment of areas that are used infrequently, or where a pesticide is Schedule 5 or lower in accordance with the Poisons Standard, signs will be restricted to that required during application. This signage will remain in place whilst application activities occur and until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species, or as per label directions. Further information is available by contacting Councils Parks Team as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan.

Where the community has nominated to be contracted when applications are made at certain locations, this will be done via social media messaging, email, or other preferred form of contact 48 hours prior to application.

## Other public land owned, managed, or controlled by Northern Beaches Council

A list of all sites scheduled for programmed will be advertised on Councils website and in local print media where possible approximately 1 month prior to application. In addition, temporary signs will be placed at entrances of Council facilities where visitation is high, at least 48 hours prior to application and remain on site for an additional 48 hours afterwards.

For pesticide treatment of areas that are used infrequently, or where a pesticide is Schedule 5 or lower in accordance with the Poisons Standards, signs will be restricted to that required during application and remain until such time that the pesticide has dried following contact with target species. Further information is available by contacting Councils Customer Service Centre as detailed on signage and elsewhere in this notification plan. Dye may also be added to sprays in situations described above.

Where the community has nominated to be contracted when applications are made at certain locations, this will be done via social media messaging, email, or other preferred form of contact 48 hours prior to application.

## Sensitive places adjacent to public places

Clause 48 of the Pesticides Regulation stipulates additional requirements in relation to use adjacent. Sensitive places defined by this plan are;

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Childcare centre
- Hospital
- Community health centre
- Nursing home

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- A place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

Where pesticide application is programmed or scheduled for application within 20m of places described above, the occupiers will be provided with 5 days' notice by social media, phone, email, or letter box drop (whichever is most practicable).

### Arrangements for emergency pesticide applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications 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 or risk to the general public, contractors and Council employees), the risk will be controlled and may involve insolation and restricted access of the site. Where practicable, signage and or on-site management or signage will be implemented.

### Instances where Council will not give notice of pesticide application

Except for persons and organisations who have nominated for inclusion in Councils central notification register, Council will not provide notification where the following applies:

- The use of small quantities of pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening)
- Public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is unrelated to the pesticide use
- Remote areas where there is little likelihood of them being encountered by the public i.e., areas where there is no vehicular access and low public visitation

## 5. Information to be provided

In accordance with clause 41(h) of the Regulation, the following information will be available from site signs/notices or by contacting the phone number listed on such signs/notices:

- The full product name of the pesticide as listed on the label
- 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 of a 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. Information about programmed pesticide use and general information about Council's pesticide use will be available on Council's website ([www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)).

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## 6. Informing the community

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

- Placing a copy of the plan on public display, available for viewing, free of charge during officer out the following Council office centres;
  - 1 Belgrave Street Manly
  - Civic Centre, 725 Pittwater Road, Dee Why
  - Village Park, 1 Park Street Mona Vale
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council website ([www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au))
- Public exhibition of the Pesticide Use Notification Plan through Council's Your Say platform.

## 7. Future reviews of the plan

Unless there is a specific need to an earlier review, this Plan will be reviewed within 5 years of the adoption date.

The review will include:

- A report on the progress of implementing the Plan
- Public consultation and the notification methods outlined in the plan; and
- Recommendation of alterations to the Plan (if applicable)

Any recognised change to relevant legislation; or directives or guidelines issued by agencies including the NSW Ombudsman and the Department of Local Government; or to Northern Beaches Council's related guidelines and procedures will activate an immediate review of this policy to ensure it remains current and aligned to best practice policies.

## 8. Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss this Plan or to obtain details of a specific pesticide application in public places should contact Council customer service

Phone- 1300 434 434

Email- [Council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

Fax- 9971 4522

Postal Address- PO Box 82 Manly NSW 1655 Australia

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## 9. Relevant References & Legislation

- Pesticides Regulation 2017
- Developing a Pesticide Use Notification Plan for Outdoor Public Places A Guide for Local Councils – Environmental Protection Authority (NSW)
- Former Warringah Council Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2016
- Former Manly Council Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2015
- Former Pittwater Council Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2012