



Maitland City Council

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

May 2007

As revised: 18 May 2007

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 outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by Maitland City 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 provisions of this plan will also apply to contractors engaged by Council where pesticide application is a component of the contract, as well as any other person or organisation applying pesticide to public land controlled by Council.

2. PESTICIDE USE BY MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the legal definition, "Pesticide" includes all substances or mixtures used for destroying or preventing infestations of plants, destroying or preventing pests associated with plants, destroying any other insect or animal pests.

Maitland City Council applies herbicides for weed control and insecticides to manage certain insect pests.. 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 include fungicides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits.

Pesticides are only used when necessary. Applications may be programmed as part of routine maintenance works, associated with new projects, or reactive to situations where new pest or weed infestations occur.

Among the programmed works, there are some applications which are seasonal due to the life-cycle or the target and climatic conditions. The frequency of application ranges from two (2) to six (6) times per year for sports fields, parks and gardens, and two (2) to three (3) times per year for public thoroughfares and the areas surrounding community & recreation buildings.

The reactive applications may be either non-urgent, or urgent (emergency) situations. Non-urgent situations are those where there will be no serious risk to the public, threat of infrastructure damage or rapid spread of weeds if the control can be done in the near future. The necessary works can therefore be scheduled to fit in with Council's available resources and work allocations.

Emergency situations present an immediate risk to public safety (eg. the presence of wasps at certain locations), and require rapid response for control.

Council also uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (such as home gardening). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray equipment.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Council's Senior Noxious Weed Officer on Phone No. 49 349 602 or by visiting the website www.maitland.nsw.gov.au.

3. 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 its local government area (LGA).

- public gardens, parks, playgrounds, picnic areas and commons.
- sporting fields & ovals, amenities (change rooms, canteens, storage sheds).
- other public land owned or controlled by the Council, including:
 - road verges, laneways, pathways
 - vacant land and reserves
 - drains, water bodies and waterways
- Swimming pool buildings and grounds
- Mt Vincent Waste Depot
- Cemeteries
- Outside certain council buildings, eg. libraries, community halls.
- Sensitive places (*as detailed below*)

In accordance with the requirements of the regulation, this plan also describes notification procedures in place for **sensitive places**. The definition of a sensitive area and the provisions of notification when pesticides are used at, or adjacent to, sensitive sites, is described in Section 4.

Maitland City 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 table at the end of this plan.

4. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

Notification to the public of pesticide use can be provided through one, or a combination, of:

- signs, on the spray vehicle or erected on site
- emails/letters or letterbox drops
- door knocking
- newspaper articles
- information on Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places).

These notification requirements are based on Maitland City Council's assessment of:

- the level of usage of the public places where the 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)
- type of pesticide used.

Notification arrangements for each of the outdoor public place categories are described in the table at the end of this plan.

Maitland City 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 baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray equipment.

Algaecides (normally chlorine) are used regularly at the public swimming pools. Council does not intend to provide individual notice of each application of algaecide to the water in the pools.

Special measures for sensitive places

The Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home
- a place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation). (Note: there are no declarations at the time of preparation of this plan).

In addition to providing notification to the occupier of any sensitive place of a proposed pesticide use on that property, council will also notify the occupiers of a sensitive place of council's proposed use of a pesticide on an adjoining property.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place are described in the table at the rear of this plan.

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 letter, email, telephone or door-knock.

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), Maitland City 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 its *Council infoline (02)49349700* or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Maitland City 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, organisations or community groups hold an existing lease, or are the primary users or occupiers of Maitland City Council land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council requires notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

5. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, 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
- 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.

Maitland City Council's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups, types of pesticide use and notification arrangements in each of these categories of public places is summarised in the table at the end of this plan.

6. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Maitland City Council will advise residents of the plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Maitland City Council's libraries and the Administration building in High St. Maitland, during office hours and at Maitland City Council's Works depot office at Metford Rd. Metford, during office hours.
- placing a copy of the plan on the Maitland City Council website at www.maitland.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in Maitland Mercury and the Newcastle Morning Herald
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

7. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years. 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 submissions
- in the light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Maitland City Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain information on specific pesticide applications in public places, should access the Council website:

www.maitland.nsw.gov.au

or, alternatively, contact Council's Senior Noxious Weed Officer, Mr Brian Worboys on:

Office phone No.: (02) 49 349 602
Facsimile No.: (02) 49 344 029
Email address: brianw@maitland.nsw.gov.au

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE	NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS <small>(where signs are to be posted, they will be erected near the application area or main entrance)</small>
Public gardens, parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Children • Elderly people • General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers). • Other social groups (e.g. Ethnic, religious, clubs) 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays, particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicide (usually garden beds) • spray/bait insecticides 	<p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Sporting fields and ovals, amenities <i>(change rooms, canteens, storage sheds)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations with participants and spectators (mostly weekends). • school sports groups • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers) • informal sports (often children) 	Depending on use for formal events can be very high on some days, low on others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • spray or bait termiticides on facilities • rodenticides near facilities • growth regulators 	<p>Letter, email or telephone call to sporting groups 1-5 days in advance.</p> <p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>

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Road verges, laneways and pathways <i>(including RTA controlled roads)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public 	Low for rural roads; Medium to high for urban roads & pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • growth regulators • broadscale selective herbicides • spray insecticides 	<p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Vacant land & reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush walkers • Recreational walkers, joggers, dog walkers 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale selective herbicides • spray insecticides 	<p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Drains, water bodies and waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents living adjacent to these areas • visitors who walk past these areas or children playing near these areas/water bodies. 	Low to medium. May be high on weekends, public holidays, school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale selective & non-selective herbicides • spray insecticides 	<p>Notification will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Environment Protection Licence No.10393 which requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - notification, at least 3 days and no more than 7 days, prior to spraying. - the intended pesticide use will be notified in the appropriate newspaper/s.

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Swimming pool buildings and grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • School carnivals • Lap swimmers. 	Seasonal - very high during warm months; low in winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spray insecticides • bait insecticides • broadscale insecticides • algaecides (<i>eg. chlorine</i>) 	<p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>If possible, spraying will take place when pools are closed</p>
Mt Vincent Waste Depot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • users • Council staff 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale selective/non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • bait rodenticides 	<p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p>
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public • Contract grass mowers • Grave diggers • Monumental masons 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot non-selective herbicides • broadscale selective herbicides • spot insecticides • spray termiticides 	<p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>Note: No spraying is to be undertaken immediately prior to, or during a funeral service.</p>

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<p>Outside certain Council Buildings. (e.g. Libraries, community Halls, etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library users (including children, school groups, and the elderly) • Young children and their carers (childcare facilities) • Parents • Community groups • Church groups • General members of the public 	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spray insecticides • bait insecticides • bait rodenticides • Broadscale selective/non-selective herbicides 	<p>Letter, email or telephone call to user groups 1-5 days in advance.</p> <p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying.</p> <p>If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>A doorknock to advise any occupants of the building of the commencement of the application of the pesticide will also be undertaken.</p>

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Sensitive Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School or pre-school • Kindergarten • Childcare centre • Hospital • Community health centre • Nursing home 	Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spray insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicide (usually garden beds) • Bait insecticides • Bait rodenticides 	<p>Notice by letter, email, or telephone call will be provided to a contact person for the occupiers of sensitive places at least one (1) day prior to the application of the pesticide on the property of the sensitive place or on an adjoining property.</p> <p>Sign to be displayed on spray vehicle during pesticide spraying. If a re-entering period applies to the pesticide used, signs will be erected and remain in place until the end of the re-entering period.</p> <p>A doorknock to advise any occupants of the sensitive place of the commencement of the application of the pesticide will also be undertaken.</p>