



maitland

city council

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

APRIL 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 under the Pesticides Act 1999.

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 by or under the control of 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 and 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 any pest, destroying a plant, 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 to protect structures and public safety from insects 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 a high priority pest or weed infestation occurs. Some pesticide applications are seasonal due to the life-cycle of the targeted pest or dependent on climatic conditions. The frequency of application can vary depending on the type of pesticide and/or pest in each situation.

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 or asset damage; or rapid spread of pest or disease if the control cannot be completed immediately. 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, for example the presence of wasps at certain locations, or an immediate risk to Council's assets like an infestation of Mole Crickets on an oval. These situations are classed as an emergency situation and require immediate treatment or rapid response.

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 by hand or hand-held applicator.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Council's Biosecurity Officer on (02) 4934 9700 or by visiting Council's website at www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/our-services/environment/weeds-and-pesticides.

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:

- Signage erected on site
- Signage displayed on a vehicle
- Emails/letters or letterbox drops
- Door knocking
- Information on Council's website

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

- The level of usage of the public place where the pesticide is intended to 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) 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; or 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 by hand or hand-held applicator.

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.

4.1. SPECIAL MEASURES FOR SENSITIVE RESIDENCES

Council acknowledges local residents, who for health reasons, would wish that pesticides not be used in the immediate vicinity of their residence. Upon request to Council's Biosecurity Officer, individuals can nominate to be included on a confidential list to have no pesticides used by Council in the immediate vicinity of their nominated address.

4.2. 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 by order published in the Gazette. Note: there were 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.

4.3. EMERGENCY PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

There may be 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), or where Council's assets are threatened by a pest. In these instances Maitland City Council will, where possible, provide notice by displaying signs nearby at the time of the application. Council may also provide information via its Customer Experience Team on (02) 4934 9700 or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

4.4. 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.

In accordance with this plan, Council requires notification of pesticide use from persons, organisations or community groups that hold an existing lease, or are the primary users or occupiers of Council land that is considered a public place.

5. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED?

In accordance with Clause 41(1)(h) 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 for which the pesticide is to be used
- The proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use
- The place where the pesticide is to be used
- Contact telephone number or 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 include Council's logo and 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 at the Administration building at 285-287 High Street, Maitland, during office hours
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Maitland City Council website at:
www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/our-services/environment/weeds-and-pesticides.

7. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every three years. The review will include:

- Any legislative changes that are required to be implemented into the plan
- Where necessary (as per Clause 44 of The Regulations) 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 Council via:

<https://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/my-neighbourhood/report-an-issue/contact-us>

Alternatively, contact Council's Biosecurity Officer on:

Office phone No: (02) 4934 9700

Email address: robert.eyre@maitland.nsw.gov.au

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE	NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS
Public gardens, parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, commons	• 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)	• spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicides • spray/bait insecticides	Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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.
Sporting fields and ovals, amenities (<i>change rooms, canteens, storage sheds</i>)	• 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	• spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale herbicides • broadscale insecticides • broadscale fungicides • broadscale miticides • growth regulators • spray or bait termiticides • rodenticides	Letter, email or telephone call to all user groups one to five days in advance of pesticide application. (Except for emergency pesticide applications) Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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.
Road verges, laneways and pathways (<i>including RMS controlled roads</i>)	• The general public	Low for rural roads; Medium to high for urban roads & pathways	• spot herbicides • broadscale herbicides • growth regulators • broadscale selective herbicides • spray insecticides	Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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.

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE	NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS
Vacant land & reserves	• Bush walkers • Recreational walkers, joggers, dog walkers	Low	• spot herbicides • broadscale herbicides • spray insecticides	Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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.
Drains, water bodies and waterways	• Local residents living adjacent to these areas • The general public	Low to medium. May be high on weekends, public holidays, school holidays)	• spot herbicides • spray insecticides • algaecides	Notification will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Environment Protection Licence No.10393 which requires: - notification, at least three days and no more than seven days, prior to spraying. - the intended pesticide use will be notified on the Council's website - the erection of a warning sign adjacent to the waters where the pesticide is applied.
Swimming pool buildings and grounds	• Families • School carnivals • The general public	Seasonal - very high during warm months; low in winter	• spot herbicides • spray insecticides • bait insecticides • broadscale insecticides • algaecides (eg. <i>chlorine</i>)	Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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. If possible, spraying will take place when pools are closed.

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE	NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS
Mt Vincent Waste Depot	• Visitors/customers • Council staff	Medium	• spot herbicides • spray insecticides • broadscale herbicides • broadscale insecticides • bait rodenticides	Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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.
Cemeteries	• General public • Contractors • Council staff	Low	• spot herbicides • broadscale herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale insecticides • spray termiticides	Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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. Note: No pesticide use is to be undertaken immediately prior to, or during a funeral service.
Outside certain Council Buildings. (e.g. Libraries, community halls, etc)	• Library users (including children, school groups, and the elderly) • Young children and their carers (childcare facilities) • Parents • Community groups • Church groups • The general public	High	• spot herbicides • spray insecticides • bait insecticides • bait rodenticides • Broadscale herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicides	Letter, email or telephone call to all user groups one to five days in advance of pesticide application. (Except for emergency pesticide applications) Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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. A doorknock to advise any occupants of the building of the commencement of the application of the pesticide will also be undertaken.

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE	NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS
Sensitive Places	• School or pre-school • Kindergarten • Childcare centre • Hospital • Community health centre • Nursing home	Very high	• spot herbicides • spray insecticides • broadscale herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicides • Bait insecticides • Bait rodenticides	Notice by letter, email, or telephone call will be provided to a contact person for the occupiers of sensitive places at least one day prior to the application of the pesticide on the property of the sensitive place or on an adjoining property. Appropriate signage to be displayed on site 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. A doorknock to advise any occupants of the sensitive place of the commencement of the application of the pesticide will also be undertaken.