



PITTWATER COUNCIL

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

Published by:

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Pittwater Council
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1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation).

The plan sets out how Pittwater Council intends to notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made at public places that it owns or controls.

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 Pittwater Council. The plan allows members of the community to be informed of when pesticides are being applied and enables them to make an informed choice to avoid contact with pesticides. Through the implementation of this plan Council will ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a careful, responsible manner that minimises the risk of 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 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 often future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

Pittwater Council adopts an integrated pest management approach for every site to ensure that where possible pesticides use is implemented as a last option. This ensures a weed or pest is adequately controlled or contained and protects public places as well as private property from pest damage and protects users of public places from nuisance or danger. The extent of pesticides use within the Pittwater LGA depends on a number of factors; area, relevant management issues requiring attention, community use of the site and climatic conditions. For weed control, manual methods are regularly used in sensitive bushland and wetland areas, with some specific use of herbicide either spot spraying or cut and paint where applicable. In high usage areas such as playgrounds and parks minimal pesticides application is used outside peak times and when weather conditions are optimal to avoid spray drift etc. Pittwater Council adopts a best practice approach to pesticides application and daily records are retained for spraying and large vertebrate pest control in public places.

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, and large vertebrate baits. For large vertebrate baiting programs to control pests such as rabbits and foxes an integrated approach is adopted by using a combination of baiting and trapping. Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Pittwater Council on 9970 1111 (Customer Service) or by visiting the website www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Pittwater 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 Pittwater Local Government Area:

- public parks, gardens and reserves;
- playgrounds;
- picnic areas;
- sporting fields and ovals;
- commercial areas.

Public land owned or controlled by Pittwater Council, including:

- bushland, headland and wetland reserves
- road verges and road reserves;
- laneways and pathways;
- road, utility or other easements accessible to the public;
- drains;
- golf courses;
- bowling clubs;
- cemeteries.

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 Pittwater Council buildings or throughout the following facilities: libraries; community centres; surf clubs; Rural Fire Service buildings; sporting buildings; Coastal Environment Centre; Lakeside Caravan Park; Council offices.

Pittwater 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 following table.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public parks gardens and reserves	Families Children School groups Seniors Community groups General public Recreational users eg joggers, walkers Bushcare volunteers	Low to High High on weekends and public and school holidays	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Fungicides (usually garden beds) Spray termiticides, ant control Large vertebrate baiting using Pindone for rabbits and 1080 Fox-off baits.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Playgrounds	Families Children General public	Low to high High on weekends and public holidays	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides Spray ant control Bait ant control Rodenticides
Picnic areas	Families Children General public Seniors	Low to high High on weekends and public holidays	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Fungicide (usually on garden beds) Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides Bait ant control Bait rodenticides Bait bird control
Sporting fields and ovals	Sporting clubs and associations Recreational users Eg. Joggers, walkers and dog walkers School groups	Low to high High on weekends	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Spraying of fungicides Spray or bait termiticides on facilities Broadscale insecticides Rodenticides Large vertebrate bait control i.e. rabbits
Bushland, Headland, Wetland Reserves	Local residents General recreational users (eg bushwalkers, joggers, General public Bushcare volunteers	Low to High Higher on weekends and public holidays	Spot spray herbicides and insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Large Vertebrate baiting using Pindone and 1080
Road verges and reserves	Local residents General public businesses	Low-high depending on location	Spot spray herbicides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Laneways and pathways	Local residents General public	Low-high depending on location	Spot spray herbicides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Drains	Service personnel	low	Spot spray herbicides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, water, sewer, electricity)	Local residents	Low to high depending on location	Spot spray herbicides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Golf courses (owned or controlled by authority)	Members and general public	Low to high	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides, Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Spray termiticides, Rodenticides Large vertebrate baiting i.e. rabbits
Other sporting facilities - Golf Driving Range	General public	Low to high	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides, Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Spray termiticides, Rodenticides Large vertebrate baiting i.e. rabbits
Bowling Clubs (owned or controlled by Authority)	Members and general public	Low to high	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides, Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Spray termiticides, Rodenticides
Other outdoor recreational facilities – Rock pools and tidal pools	General public Schools Sporting Clubs Local Residents	Low to high season dependant	Spray algicide

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Camping grounds Lakeside Caravan Park	Residents General public Visitors to CEC	Low to high season dependant	Spot spray herbicides Spot spray insecticides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Spray and bait ant control Spray termiticides Rodenticides Large vertebrate baiting i.e. rabbits
Other outdoor public places Cemetery	Local residents, general public	Low to medium	Spot spray herbicides, Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Vacant Crown Land	General public	Low to medium depending on area	Spot spray herbicides Large vertebrate baiting i.e. Pindone and 1080 fox-off
Interiors of public buildings	General public School groups Sporting clubs Local resident	Low to high	Spot spray insecticides Termiticides Rodenticides Bird control

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Pittwater Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. This includes special measures for 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 Pittwater 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, sporting or other recreational activities);
- type of pesticide used.

3.1 How and when notice of pesticides will be provided

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

- signs;
- information on the Pittwater website;
- publications included with rate notices;
- advertisements in the local newspaper or as required by relevant authorities;

- fax and email;
- letterbox drops;
- phone contact;
- community meeting;
- information fact sheets;
- responding to all reasonable requests for information; and
- notification register.

3.2. Situations where no notification of Pesticide Use will be provided under this 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 baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray bottle or container.

Pittwater Council will not provide notification for applications requiring the use of small quantities as stipulated by the regulation and spot spraying using hand held equipment in low public use areas.

Pittwater Council will not provide notification for the following situations:

- Residents using herbicides to maintain their road verges/nature strips as it is impractical for Council to notify these events.
- Indoor public areas under lease
- Non-public areas eg. Depots, building sites
- Non-spraying applications including cut and paint applications.

3.3 Outdoor public places owned or controlled by Council

Public Parks, Gardens and Reserves

For public parks, gardens and reserves, signs to notify the general community will be placed at major entrances at least half an hour prior to application and will remain for at least 1 hour afterwards for the following pesticide use:

- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides

Other pesticide uses

- Large vertebrate baiting to control foxes and rabbits
 - 1) Signs will be installed at the affected reserve for a 6 week period in accordance with the requirements of the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.
 - 2) A letterbox drop will be carried out to include all residences immediately adjoining the reserve to be baited.
 - 3) A public notice will be published in a local newspaper at least seven (7) days prior to baiting the reserve.

Playgrounds and Picnic Areas

For playgrounds, signs will be provided to notify the general community at major entrances at least 48 hours prior to application and remain until the next day afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Spot spray non-selective herbicides
- Spot spray selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Spot spray insecticides

Sporting fields and ovals

For sporting fields and ovals, signs will be provided to notify the general community at major entrances just before commencement of works and will remain for 1 hour after completion of works for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides

Other pesticide uses

- Large vertebrate baiting to control foxes and rabbits
 - 1) Signs will be installed at the affected reserve for a 6 week period in accordance with the requirements of the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.
 - 2) A letterbox drop will be carried out to include all residences immediately adjoining the reserve to be baited.
 - 3) A public notice will be published in a local newspaper at least seven (7) days prior to baiting the reserve.

3.4 Public land owned or controlled by Council

The following notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public land categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA):

Bushland, headland and wetland reserves

Signs will be installed in reserves where there is high public use at major entrances, along major tracks and on vehicles used for pesticide application at least one hour prior to application and remain for at least one hour afterwards for the following pesticide uses

- Spot herbicides
- Broadscale selective
- Broadscale non-select herbicides

Other pesticide uses

- Large vertebrate baiting to control foxes and rabbits

- 1) Signs will be installed at the affected reserve for a 6 week period in accordance with the requirements of the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.
 - 2) A letterbox drop will be carried out to include all residences immediately adjoining the reserve to be baited.
 - 3) A public notice will be published in a local newspaper at least seven (7) days prior to baiting the reserve.
- Selective herbicides applied under an off-label permit
 - 1) A letterbox drop will be carried out to include all residences immediately adjoining the reserve to be sprayed under an off-label permit.
 - 2) A public notice will be published in a local newspaper at least seven (7) days prior to the application of the herbicide.

Road verges and reserves, Laneways and pathways, Road, utility, or other easements accessible by the public

Signs will be provided to notify the general community which will be displayed on vehicles used for pesticide application for the duration of works and where appropriate signs will also be installed at either end of the designated work area for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale non-selective herbicide
- Spot spray selective herbicide

For sensitive areas such as drains adjacent to schools etc a letterbox drop of adjacent properties will occur at least 5 days before the expected date or dates of broadscale herbicide application.

Information on the programmed and reactive spot use of herbicides will also be posted on the Pittwater 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.

Golf Courses

For golf courses signs will be provided to notify the general community, members and patrons at major entrances and adjacent to spray areas just before commencement of works and will remain for 1 hour after completion of works or as required by the product label for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Fungicides

Pittwater Council will also endeavour to publish a public notice in the local paper and on the Pittwater website at least 7 days prior to major applications of pesticides at Avalon Golf Course (but may not always be possible).

Other sporting facilities – Golf Driving Range and Bowling Clubs

For the Golf Driving Range, signs will be provided to staff and the general community at major entrances 1 hour prior to application and 1 hour after application for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale selective herbicides

Rock Pools and Tidal Pools

For the Rock and Tidal pools signs will be provided to notify staff and the general community at least 2 hours prior to cleaning and will remain for 6 hours after cleaning. The pools will be closed during this period for the following pesticide uses

- Algicides

Camping grounds - Coastal Environment Centre and Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park

For the Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park grounds, signs will be provided to notify staff, residents and the general community at major entrances and will remain for 1 hour prior to application and 1 hour after application for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale herbicides

Other pesticide uses

- Large vertebrate baiting to control foxes and rabbits
 - 1) Signs will be installed at the affected reserve for a 6 week period in accordance with the requirements of the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.
 - 2) A letterbox drop will be carried out to include all residences immediately adjoining the reserve to be baited.
 - 3) A public notice will be published in a local newspaper at least seven (7) days prior to baiting the reserve.

In the case of common areas used by long-term residents of the caravan park (which for the purposes of the Pesticides Regulation are considered to be part of a multiple occupancy residential complex) the person organising a pesticide application will be responsible for giving all residents at least 5 working days notice before a pesticide application takes place.

Common areas include foyers, hallways, stairwells, share laundries and toilet blocks, carparks, gardens, pathways and fences. They also include building exteriors, roof cavities and underfloor spaces.

Mona Vale Cemetery

Signs will be installed at all major entrances to the cemetery 1 hour prior to application and will remain for 1 hour after application for the following pesticide use:

- Broadscale herbicides

Other pesticide uses

- Large vertebrate baiting to control foxes and rabbits

- 1) Signs will be installed at the affected reserve for a 6 week period in accordance with the requirements of the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.
- 2) A letterbox drop will be carried out to include all residences immediately adjoining the reserve to be baited.
- 3) A public notice will be published in a local newspaper at least seven (7) days prior to baiting the reserve.

3.5 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 11J(1) of the *Pesticides Regulation* defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home
- place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation).

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places adjacent to *the above sensitive places* will consist of letter/verbal advice to the facility manager at least 48 hours prior to application. Signs will be provided to the general community at major entrances at least half an hour prior to application and remain for at least 1 hour afterwards for the following pesticide use

- Selective herbicides

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. If considered appropriate and reasonable, persons located within the nearby sensitive place will be immediately evacuated following notification.

3.6 Notification of 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, where possible will provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application for the following pesticide uses:

- *Broadscale insecticides*

If this is not possible, Council will provide information via Council's Customer Service Call Centre (Tel: 9970 1111) or by contacting the nominated contact officer, whose details will be listed on the posted signs.

Where the pest or disease outbreak requires immediate action to prevent turf damage or loss (where the pest poses an immediate threat to turf survival and/or quality) notice will be provided by signage prior to application.

3.7 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Council will ensure that notification by the contractor is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan. The contractor must provide details of how they will provide appropriate notification prior to commencement of work at each site. Contractors will be required to sign an agreement to ensure that all the requirements of this plan are fulfilled.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease over land that is owned or controlled by Pittwater Council that remains a public place and pesticides are used, the Regulations require that the lessee must notify of pesticides use in accordance with the provisions of this plan.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used, and
- the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated, and
- the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use, and
- the places where the pesticide is to be used, and
- general contact telephone number and Council's email address for the officer of the public authority to further discuss the notice, and
- any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA¹ permit.

Depending on the site and type of pesticides application the above information may be provided entirely on the sign. Alternatively, and where appropriate partial information may be provided on the sign and the remaining information will be provided by the nominated contact officer listed on the sign or made available on the Pittwater website; www.pittwater.gov.au.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

As already noted, the Pittwater website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address will be publicised in rate notices and by regular inclusions in Council's regular newspaper advertisements in local newspapers.

¹ The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

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

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its main office at 1 Park Street, Mona Vale and also at Old Barrenjoey Road, Avalon
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Pittwater website
- Placing a notice in the Manly Daily
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette
- Including a leaflet in the rates notice advising residents of the plan and where they can view a copy.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. 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.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Steven Lawler, Reserves and Recreation Officer
PO Box 882 Mona Vale NSW 1660
Ph: 9970 1359 Mob: 017 462 432
fax 9970 1750
E-mail: steven_lawler@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Parks, ovals, sportsfields,
playgrounds & rock pools

Chris Goodmanson, Urban Infrastructure
Ph: 9970 1437 Mob: 0418 699 552
fax 9970 1750

Road verges & drainage
channels

E-mail: chris_goodmanson@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Mark Beharrell, Natural Resources Principle Officer
Ph: 9970 1368 Mob: 0438 265 769
fax 9970 1750

Bushland, headland
and wetlands reserves

E-mail: mark_beharrell@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

or access the website www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/