Attachment A

Public Exhibition - Engagement Report

CITY OF SYDNEY

Engagement Report

Weed Management Policy and Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Engagement Summary

From 19 February to 19 March 2025, we asked the community for feedback on our Weed Management Policy and Pesticide Use Notification Plan.

Consultation provided an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to review and provide comment on the on the Weed Management Policy (the Policy) and the Pesticide use Notification plan (the Plan) .

The Plan sets out how we let the community know about the use of pesticides in public places we own or manage.

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- contribute to the biosecurity of the Greater Sydney Region
- demonstrate our commitment to minimising the use of herbicides and prioritising the use of herbicide alternatives where safe, feasible and effective
- provide safe, high-quality and welcoming public places
- protect the natural environment and public places.

Purpose of Engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- notify stakeholders of the proposal
- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community.

Submissions

We received a total of four submissions via an online survey and emailed submissions. The Sydney Your Say website page was visited 121 times during the consultation period.

We received submissions from two residents and the following organisations:

- Pyrmont Ultimo Landcare Group
- Animal Liberation NSW

Submissions are summarised in Key Findings.

Key Findings

Summary of submissions

Several subjects/topics were raised in the feedback received. These are summarised below, with a summary of the City of Sydney responses. Detailed responses have been sent directly to each submission author.

Submission feedback	City of Sydney response
The Policy and the Plan Details of the weed removal approach by volunteers for bush restoration areas, including a list of commonly managed weeds and emphasising the use of non-herbicide approaches by volunteers.	Noted. The response aligns with the Policy for volunteers to manage weeds using non-herbicide approaches. We value volunteers and their contribution to the Policy objectives and their care for our city. Submission author has been responded to.
The Policy and the Plan Comment on the impacts of increasing severe weather and the importance of greening our city and providing habitat. Support for both physical and chemical weed management. Compliments on the Policy and Plan and comment that the City will continue to act with the community and environment in mind.	Noted. We continue to make meaningful contributions to our ambitious Greening Sydney Strategy targets for increasing greening, canopy cover, habitat and community engagement with greening, across our Local Government Area (LGA). The Policy and Plan assist in our actions towards a resilient and greener city. Submission author has been responded to.
The Policy Comment on the City not providing a program of weed removal operations and a request to weed a retaining wall in Potts Point.	Noted. Weed management requires proactive and reactive management. Our operations require flexibility to respond to a range of environmental impacts to weed management, that would be difficult to provide in a program. The Pesticide Application Schedule (under the Pesticide Use Notification Plan) allows for eight application periods across the year in reference to the suburbs within our LGA. The Pesticide Application Schedule is published on the City's website and is updated on an annual basis prior to the commencement of the next calendar year. The community can request weed removal or notify us of weeds by calling, emailing, writing or lodging a report through our website or in person. Following an investigation into property ownership, we have removed weeds from the section of the wall we own.

Submission feedback	City of Sydney response
	Submission author has been responded to.
The Plan Formal document detailing eight primary recommendations with 22 sub-recommendations relating to the organisational approach to managing rodents and the use of first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides and off-target impacts to wildlife.	Noted. Given the breadth and significant detail within the 22 recommendations, and that the majority are beyond the scope of the Plan, a detailed written response has been provided to the submission author. We review pest management practices and programs on a regular basis, including any impact on wildlife in consultation with our Urban Ecology Coordinator. Of the recommendations relevant to the Plan, the Plan has been updated to include clarification of our approach to managing rodents and use of first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in collaboration with our Urban Ecology Coordinator. Information about the pesticides, including rodenticides that we may use can be found on our Pesticide Use Notification Plan webpage.

Engagement Activities

Overview of engagement

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/policy-planning-changes/your-feedback-pesticide-use-notification-plan-weed-management-policy was created. The page included information about the consultation.

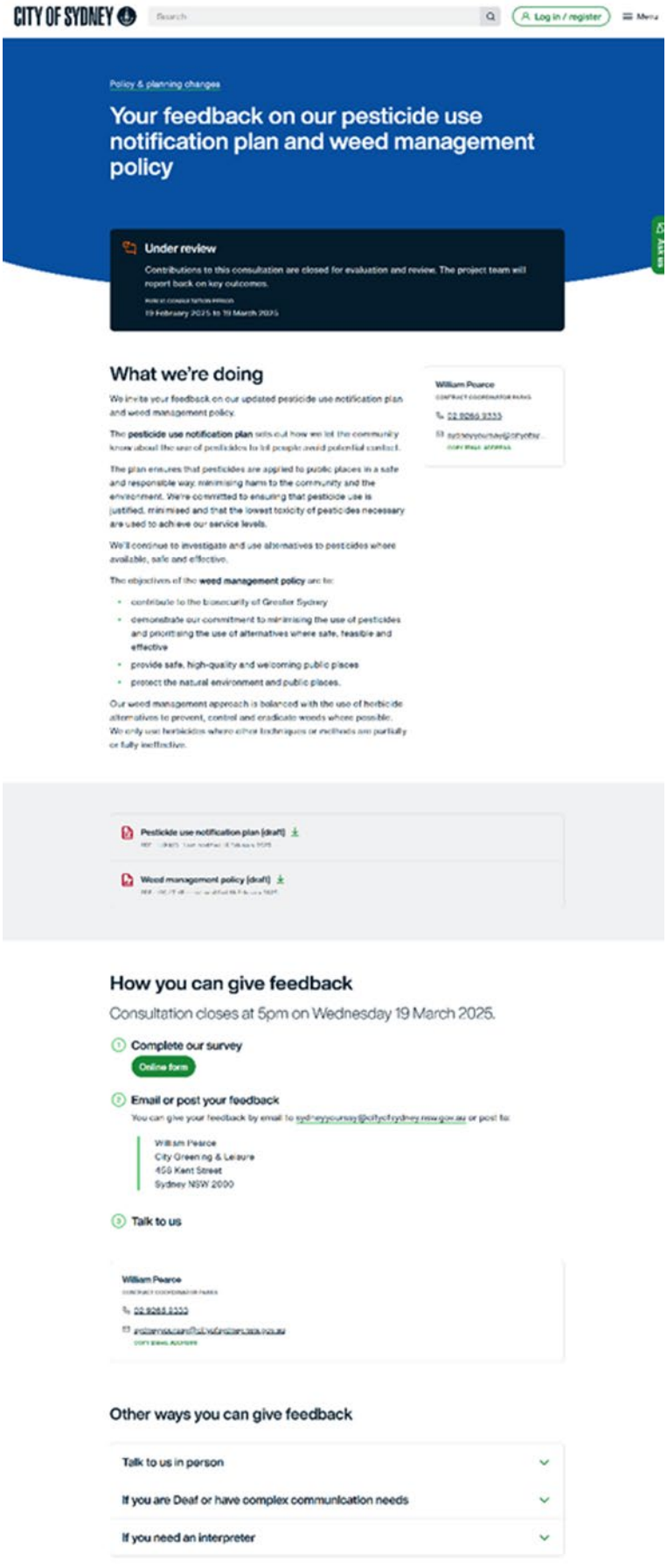
2. Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

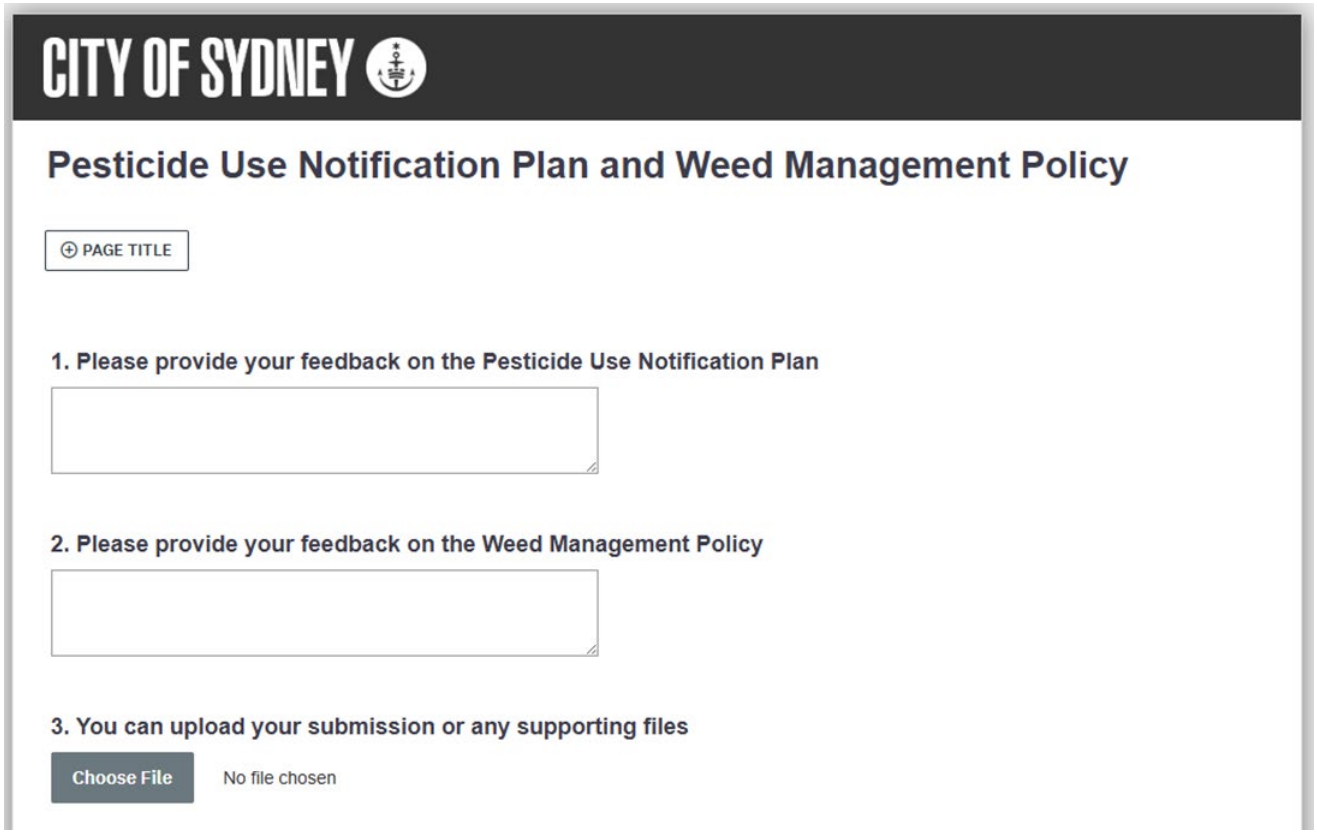
3. Sydney Your Say notifications

An electronic digital mail form was sent to subscribers of the Sydney Your Say Newsletter on 12 March and 11 April to 6,659 recipients each time.

Sydney Your Say webpage



Survey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Pesticide Use Notification Plan and Weed Management Policy
PAGE TITLE
1. Please provide your feedback on the Pesticide Use Notification Plan
2. Please provide your feedback on the Weed Management Policy
3. You can upload your submission or any supporting files
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