# Attachment B

## Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2013

# PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN 2013

## The Council of the City of Sydney

**The Council of the City of Sydney**
Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Reference: TRIM 2012/410751

# PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how the City of Sydney will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to outdoor public places that it owns or controls.

The Notification Plan aims to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid or minimize contact with pesticides, if they wish.

The City of Sydney ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising potential harm to the community and the environment. Pesticides are used in public places when necessary to eliminate weeds, to protect public property from pest damage, to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger, and to meet the community expectations for aesthetically appealing parks and public facilities.

The City is committed to ensure that pesticide use is justified, minimised and the lowest toxicity of pesticides necessary to achieve the desired outcome. The City will continue to investigate alternatives to pesticide use where available.

The Plan sets out how the City will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council and its contractors in public places.

The Plan describes:

- The public places that are covered by the Plan.
- The types of users and visitors to these public places and their estimated level of use.
- How and when the City will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places i.e. notification methods and channels
- How the community can access this plan to obtain further information about the City's notification arrangements.
- How future reviews of the Plan will be conducted.
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss the Plan with a Council officer.

Pesticide use on City controlled land includes programmed or reactive applications.

Programmed application of herbicides to roads and footpaths across the City of Sydney Local Government Area occurs eight times per year as per the Pesticide Spray Schedule by Suburb.

Programmed application of herbicides to parks and public reserves occurs eight times per year as per the Pesticide Spray Schedule by Suburb.

Application of insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, nematode alternatives, soil additives, growth inhibitors and algaecides is also applied reactively to control pests on an as need basis.

Baits are used to control outbreaks of vermin in public open spaces and to protect buildings and structures from damage by termites and soil pests.

## PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

The City of Sydney proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the City of Sydney Local Government Area:

- Public parks, reserves, street closures and other green open space areas;
- Playgrounds;
- BBQ & picnic areas;
- Sports fields, ovals and courts & skate facilities;
- Planter boxes and flower displays;
- Street Trees and Street bases/squares;
- Civic spaces;
- Road verges and streetscape planting;
- Outdoor swimming pool surrounds;
- Footpaths, laneways and public roads;
- Drains;
- Public toilets; and,
- Council depots and stores.

The City of Sydney'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** | **Type of pesticide use** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parks, & Reserves | Residents & visitors<br>Sporting groups<br>Passive recreational users<br>Children & adults<br>Schools<br>Corporate & private<br>Bookings & events hire<br>Companion animals | High | Insecticides – contact & systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact.<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides<br>Baits including molluscicides. |
| Playgrounds | Children & adults<br>Childcare, community groups<br>Schools | High | Insecticides – contact & systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact.<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| BBQ & Picnic areas | Residents & visitors<br>Sporting groups<br>Passive recreational users<br>Children & adults<br>Corporate & private<br>Bookings & events hire | High | Insecticides – contact & systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact.<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides |
| Sporting fields, ovals, courts and skate facilities | Children & adults<br>Active recreational users<br>Schools<br>Sporting groups | High | Insecticides – contact & systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact.<br>Fungicides/Algaecides<br>Rodenticides |
| Planter boxes and flower displays | Residents and visitors passing by. | Low | Insecticides – contact<br>Fungicide – contact |
| Civic Spaces<br>Open Spaces | Residents & visitors<br>Corporate & private<br>Bookings<br>Companion animals | High | Insecticides – contact & systemic<br>Herbicides – selective & non-selective/ systemic & contact.<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides |
| Road verges, pavements, laneways & streetscapes | Residents & visitors.<br>Walkers, cyclists, drivers. | High | Herbicides<br>Insecticides<br>Rodenticides |
| Outdoor Swimming pool surrounds | Visitors and members of pool | Medium | Herbicides – selective & non-selective<br>Insecticides<br>Rodenticides |
| Grounds of Certain Council Owned Buildings | Families & children | Medium | Herbicides – selective & non-selective<br>Insecticides<br>Rodenticides |
| Car Parks & Public toilets | Visitors | Medium | Bait insecticides & Rodenticides |

**NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS**

This section of the plan describes how and when The City of Sydney will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive sites 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 The City of Sydney assessment of:**

- Level and type of usage of public places where pesticides may be used;
- The extents to which members of the public that are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides, (e.g. children) are likely to regularly use the areas;
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides, for example active recreation on sports ovals, sitting on grass in public parks; and,
- The type of pesticides used.

**Notification of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of:**

- Information compiled and presented on the City website that includes an annual schedule of pesticide application on a suburb by suburb basis;
- Annual advertisement updates placed in local newspapers and on the City's website promoting the Pesticide Notification Plan and an updated pesticide spray schedule by suburb, its availability and locations for viewing;
- Signs erected at main entrances of parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports fields and other public open spaces for all pesticide application (noting that public signage is occasionally subject to removal and vandalism);
- City phone and email contact details for enquiries about pesticide application.
- Information in hard copy at the One Stop Shop and Neighbourhood Service Centres upon request;
- Email notices of updated pesticide spray schedule by suburb to registered sensitive sites, sporting groups and hotspot register.

Sensitive sites who register interest with the City will be provided with advanced written notice of the City's annual schedule of pesticide application on a suburb by suburb basis.

The City from time to time may need to adjust the spray schedule due to wet weather. The City will provide electronic notification to registered sensitive sites and sporting groups.

**Instances where the City will not give prior notice of pesticide use**

The City will not give notification for minor spot spraying of herbicides or insecticides by use of hand or back carried sprayer or by cut and paint or stem injection techniques or notification of insect, rodent and mollusc baiting in garden beds, tree bases, planters, indoor car parks and public toilets.

## How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

### *Public Parks, Reserves, Open Space and Civic Spaces*

Signage will be displayed at the main entrances of parks and public spaces immediately prior to application.

For major application using boom sprayers and mechanical methods signage will remain in place at the entrance until the re-entry period has elapsed. Additional signage will be erected around the boundary of the specific areas being treated for the duration of the application until the approved re-entry period as per the product label has expired.

For minor spot spraying applications using back packs or hand sprayer, signage will remain in place for the duration of the application and until the approved re-entry period has expired.

Signage will be erected to indicate spraying has occurred and what the re-entry time is for the following pesticide uses:

- Insecticides;
- Herbicides;
- Fungicides;
- Rodenticides;

**Playgrounds**

The City is committed to refraining from pesticide use within fenced playgrounds and within the immediate vicinity of play equipment in unfenced playgrounds. Pesticide use within such playgrounds will be limited to emergency treatment for infestation only.

**BBQ & Picnic areas**

For BBQ and picnic areas signage will be displayed on the boundary and/or within the perimeter immediately prior to the application of pesticides and will remain in place until the approved re-entry period as per the product label has expired.

Where BBQ and picnic areas are utilised by or adjacent to sensitive sites including but not limited to; kindergartens, children's day care centres, community centres, pre-schools and schools who register interest with Council will be provided with electronic notification of Council's annual program of pesticide application.

**Sports Fields, Ovals & Courts and Outdoor Swimming Pool Surrounds & Skate facilities**

For Sports fields, ovals and courts, skate facilities and outdoor swimming pools, signage will be displayed at the main entrances of the facilities on the day of application and will remain in place after application until the approved re-entry period has expired.

Sporting groups, clubs, regular hirers, and occupiers of adjacent sensitive facilities including kindergartens, children's day care centres, community centres, pre-schools and schools who register interest with Council will be provided with electronic notification of Council's annual program of pesticide application.

**Road verges, pavements, laneways & streetscapes**

In these public places, advanced information on the annual programmed applications of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides will be posted on Council's website on a Pesticide Spray Schedule by Suburb.

Occupiers of adjacent sensitive sites including kindergartens, children's day care centres, community centres and schools who register interest with Council will be provided with electronic notification of Council's annual programme of pesticide application.

Residents can request that pesticide use be limited or avoided at a particular location by contacting Council and have the street address added to the hotspot register. This will notify contractors and City staff that pesticides are not be sprayed in front of the registered address. Areas may include footpaths, streetscape gardening areas, edible verges and community gardening initiatives.

Signage will be displayed on all vehicles and equipment involved in the application of pesticides.

**Certain Council owned Buildings & Properties**

For pesticide use in grounds of childcare facilities owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided at the main entrance and near the application area on the day before application and remain until the approved re-entry period has expired.

**Public Toilets**

**Sensitive Sites**

Special measures for sensitive sites.

Clause 11J (1) of the Pesticide Regulation defines a sensitive site to be any:

- School or pre-school;
- Kindergarten;
- Childcare centre;
- Hospital;
- Community health centre;
- Nursing home; and,
- Place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive sites for each category of public place are noted above. For reactive and emergency pesticide use in outdoor places adjacent to sensitive places, the City will provide electronic notification and post signs in the vicinity at the time of application.

**External Providers of Services to Council**

Where the City uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, the City will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place the City will ensure that electronic notification is made in accordance with the notification details of this plan.

**Sites owned and/or shared by multiple government agencies**

In public places where multiple agencies have responsibility for land management on their land, and where there is no physically defined boundary, where the City is undertaking the pesticide application it will follow this Pesticide Notification Plan.

**Notification Summary Table**

| | Site Signage | Vehicle & Equipment Signage | Annual advertising of PNP in newspaper and on Council's website | Annual electronic notification to registered users of sensitive sites | Annual Suburb by Suburb Program of Application available on web site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks & Reserves | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| BBQ & Picnic Areas | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Playgrounds unfenced. | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Sports fields & outdoor pools | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Planters | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Civic Spaces | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Road Verges & footways | | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Car Parks & toilets | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | | ☑ |
| Sensitive sites | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ | ☑ |
| Spot & emergency sprays | ☑ | | | | |

**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;
- 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 places 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, if specified on the pesticide product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit;
- Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily understood and recognisable to the public; and,
- Council's website will feature a dedicated area that describes programmed pesticide use in public places and with a link to this Pesticide Notification Plan.

## HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

City of Sydney will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at One Stop Shop, Level 2, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney and at local Neighbourhood Service Centres;
- placing a copy of the plan on the website at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au;
- placing an annual notice in the local press; and,
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

## 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.
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the Plan and calling for public submissions, making recommendation for amendments (if applicable) to the plan.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact City of Sydney to discuss the Pesticide Notification Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Park Services Manager

Town Hall House

456 Kent Street, Sydney 2000

Or by email – customerservice@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

or access the website www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au