



Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Pesticide Use Notification Plan



HPE File Number: D19/9065

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

Version 6.0

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RELATED MATERIAL – FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Document Name	Description
D19/8590	Pesticides Application Communications and Notice Register
D19/7902	Centralised Community Interest Register (refer s. 3.1 of this Plan)

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

Definitions

- Council* Means Liverpool Plains Shire Council.
- Pesticide* In accordance with the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999*, a pesticide is an agricultural chemical product. This is defined under section 5 of the Act, as follows:
- (a) an agricultural chemical product (within the meaning of the Agvet Code), or
 - (b) a veterinary chemical product (within the meaning of the Agvet Code) that:
 - (i) is represented as being suitable for, or is manufactured, supplied or used for, the external control of ectoparasites of animals, and
 - (ii) is concentrated and requires dilution or mixing in water before use, and
 - (iii) is prescribed under the Stock Medicines Act 1989 as a low-risk veterinary chemical product.
- Note:** The Agvet Code defines an agricultural chemical product to be a substance or a mixture of substances that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:
- (a) destroying, stupefying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by or attacks of, any pest in relation to a plant, a place or a thing, or
 - (b) destroying a plant, or
 - (c) modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity, or
 - (d) modifying an effect of another agricultural chemical product, or
 - (e) attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.
- The term also includes a substance or mixture of substances declared by regulations to be an agricultural chemical product. However, the term does not include a substance or mixture of substances declared by regulations not to be an agricultural chemical product.

1 INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation).

The aim of the Plan is to inform the community about pesticide applications Council makes, or allows to be made, on public places that it owns or controls. The plan allows members of the community to take any such action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. However, it does not mean that the use of pesticides can be prevented in these areas.

The Plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made on, and to, public places. Council ensures that registered pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

This Plan describes:

- What public places are covered by this Plan.
- Who regularly uses these public places along with an estimate of the level of use.
- How and when Council will provide the community with information about its Pesticide applications in public places (ie what notification arrangements will be used).
- How the community can access this Plan and obtain more information about Council's notification arrangements.
- How future reviews of the Plan will be conducted.
- Where to obtain further information.

1.1 Application and Use of Pesticides

Council routinely directs and allows the use of herbicides in public places as part of its functions. Their use is designed to destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of weeds or unwanted pest species and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger or for the beautification, management and maintenance of parks and reserves.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of seasonally programmed applications range from 2-5 times per year for sports fields, 2-5 times per year for parks and gardens and 2-3 yearly for public thoroughfares. Bait insecticides are used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety, wherever this is consistent with best management practice and the outcomes are considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodent, bird and large vertebrate baits.

Strategies used and the plans developed are designed and implemented by Council staff or contractors who have attained the AQF4 Qualification. Work involving the handling or the distribution of the pesticides, whether a Council staff member or contractor, will have a minimum Chem Cert 3 Qualification.

2 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council proposes to use and permit the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns and controls within the Liverpool Plains Shire:

- Undeveloped reserves
- Public parks, playgrounds and picnic areas
- Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities
- Interior and exterior of certain Council owned and/or managed buildings
- Public land owned or controlled by Council, including:
 - Roads, road verges and road reserves
 - Streets, laneways and pathway
 - Drains, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - Swimming pools
 - Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds
 - Quirindi Airport
 - Cemeteries
 - Waste and recycling depots
 - Council's Works Depots

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 Table 1 overleaf. Variations due to seasonal occurrence of the pest species will ultimately determine the need and appropriate treatment required.

Land Category	Affected Persons	Frequency of Application	Pesticide Application Methods
Public Parks, Playgrounds & Picnic Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children ▪ Families ▪ Social groups 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides & insecticides ▪ Broad scale selective & non-selective herbicides ▪ Rodent Bait ▪ Fungicide (usually on garden beds, lawns & grassed areas) ▪ Termite & ant control sprays ▪ Ant & wasp control baits ▪ Rabbit/bird control baits
Sporting Fields, Ovals, Showground/Racecourse and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility user groups (including sporting clubs and Schools) ▪ General passive recreational users 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides & insecticides ▪ Broad scale selective & non-selective herbicides ▪ Rodent Bait ▪ Fungicide (usually on garden beds, lawns & grassed areas) ▪ Termite & ant control sprays ▪ Ant & wasp control baits ▪ Rabbit control baits
Interior and exterior of certain Council buildings eg Public Halls and Child Care Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility user groups (including sporting clubs, Playgroups and Schools) 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot insecticides and/or weed spraying ▪ Rodent baits ▪ Termite & ant control sprays ▪ Rabbit/bird control baits
Road Verge/Shoulders, Reserves and Footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Users walking or driving on the road 	LOW for rural roads MEDIUM to HIGH for urban roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides and/or insecticides ▪ Broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Rabbit control baits

Land Category	Affected Persons	Frequency of Application	Pesticide Application Methods
Easements accessible to the public (eg roads, water, sewer, stormwater and electricity easements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents and individuals that work in the area 	LOW to MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides and/or insecticides ▪ Broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Rabbit control baits
Public Swimming Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility users (including schools) 	HIGH in summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot spraying ▪ Nuisance pest control ▪ Vertebrate pest control
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitors/temporary residents ▪ Permanent residents 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot and/or broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Ant control baits and sprays
Quirindi Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility users (including aviation staff and emergency services personnel) ▪ Council staff ▪ Farming for Kids Charity 	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot and/or broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Rabbit control baits ▪ Wasp control sprays
New and Old Quipolly Dam, Quirindi and Werris Creeks Foreshores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility users (passive recreational activities) ▪ Council staff & contractors 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot and/or broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Rabbit control baits ▪ Insect control sprays
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility visitors ▪ Council staff & contractors 	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot and/or broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Rabbit control baits

Land Category	Affected Persons	Frequency of Application	Pesticide Application Methods
Waste Depots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facility users ▪ Council staff & contractors 	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot and/or broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Insect control ▪ Rabbit control baits
Council Works Depots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council staff & contractors 	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot and/or broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides ▪ Insect control sprays ▪ Rodent baits

3 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the Plan describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are based on 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 (eg 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).
- The type of pesticide used.

3.1 How will notice be provided?

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

- Signs/posters erected at facility entrances.
- Information on Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places).
- Newspaper advertisements.
- Telephone contact to primary user organisations of areas or key identified stakeholders.

Council will also allow persons and organisations (eg schools users or child care facilities) to nominate, and to have their details placed on a Central Register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular public places, as described under the Plan.

Instances where Council will not give Notice of Pesticide Application

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 (or general information on Council's website). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed/grass control using a wand or backpack/hand-held spray bottle and low voltage *utility pack* sprayer.

In addition, notice will not be given for the following minor pesticide uses:

- Spot spraying of isolated vegetation on Council land with herbicide or insecticides.
- Where a chemical is below a Schedule 6 of the Poisons Standard for spot spraying only.
- Minor control by spot application of chemicals to nuisance pests, wasps, ants etc.
- For emergency control work – **signage only** will be provided.

Outdoor Recreation Areas

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

- Public parks and reserves.
- Playgrounds.
- Picnic areas.
- Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities.
- New and Old Quipolly Dams.
- Creek bank reserves within urban areas.

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or primary entrance at least 48 hours prior to the application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Broad scale selective herbicides.
- Broad scale non-selective herbicides.
- Broad scale insecticides.
- Fungicides.
- Termite and ant control sprays.

- Termite bait (as part of an ongoing program ie first use of pesticide only).
- Baits for pest bird control (as part of an ongoing program ie first use of pesticide only).
- Rodent baiting (as part of an ongoing program ie first use of pesticide only).
- Baiting for rabbit control (as part of an ongoing program ie first use of pesticide only and in consultation with Local Lands Services, as required).

Where any pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours notice. Notice may include by phone, mail, email or letter box drop, or by prior agreement mutually acceptable to the occupier and Council.

In respect of sporting fields, ovals and allied sporting facilities, sporting groups and occupiers of adjacent sensitive places who register interest with Council can also have notice of the above pesticide uses faxed or emailed at least 48 hours prior to application. Information will be available to the general community on Council's website in relation to the forward program for the above applications (updated every three (3) months), and on the following pesticide uses in outdoor recreation areas:

- Spot herbicides.
- Spot insecticides.
- Bait for: ants, rabbits, or other pest species.

Outdoor Public Thoroughfares and Certain Easements Accessible to the Public

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following categories of public places owned or controlled by Council:

- Streets, laneways and pathways.
- Road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths.
- Road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public.
- Stormwater drains and waterways.

In these public places, information on the forward program for broad scale herbicide will be posted on Council's website every three (3) months. For stormwater drains only, information on the forward program for the use of herbicides will also be included in Council's regular advertisements in local newspapers every three (3) months, to coincide with seasonal variations.

Information on the programmed and reactive spot use of herbicides will also be posted on Council's website every three (3) 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. Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their own properties.

Certain Council Buildings

For pesticide use in childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticides uses:

- Rodent baits.
- Termite sprays.
- Ant control sprays.
- Pest bird control baits.

Information for the general community will be posted on Council's website every three (3) months in respect of the above applications and pesticide uses in the above Council buildings to coincide with seasonal fluctuations.

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.
- Any place declared to be a sensitive place under legislation administered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

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, email, door knock or letterbox drop, depending on what is reasonably practicable.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent, or within 100 metres to a sensitive place, Council will organise a door knock within the vicinity of the sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes before, so any stakeholders are made aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous or plague pest infestation.

Emergency Pesticide Applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with biting, dangerous or plague pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents, that are deemed to pose an immediate health hazard, Council will, where possible, provide notice by posting signs adjacent to the site at the time of application.

Pesticide Contractors and Lessees of Public Places

Where 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 or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place, and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will not give notice of pesticide use by these persons or organisations.

In public areas where multiple agencies have responsibility for land management (pesticide application) on their land, and where there is no physically defined boundaries, where Council is undertaking the

pesticide application it will follow this Pesticide Notification Plan unless it is operating under contract to another authority. This will include incidental applications in areas that are controlled by other authorities.

4 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED?

In accordance with clause 36 of the *Pesticides Regulation*, notices of pesticide use 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(s) are being treated.
- The proposed date(s) or date range of the pesticide use and the place where the pesticide is to be used.
- Contact telephone number and email address of the officer responsible for the pesticide application.
- Any warnings regarding re-entry 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 community and staff/contractors. As detailed in a previous section of this Plan, Council's 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 and by regular inclusion in Council's Weekly Update advertisement in local Newspapers. This website is updated on a weekly basis.

5 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Council will advise residents of the contents of the Plan and its contents by:

- Making a copy of the Plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's Administration Office at 60 Station Street, Quirindi during office hours.
- Placing a copy of the Plan on the Council website www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au.
- Placing a notice advising of its availability in the Quirindi Advocate newspaper.

6 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

Changes of a minor nature will be implemented on an ongoing 'as needs' basis and the updated Plan posted on Council's website.

The Pesticide Use Notification Plan will be reviewed by Council in its entirety every three (3) years from the date of implementation. This review process will include:

- Submission of a Report to an Ordinary Council Meeting detailing the overall performance of the Plan and any key amendments.
- Placing the revised Plan on public exhibition and inviting public submissions.

- At the conclusion of the exhibition period reviewing any submissions received and detailing any further amendments to the Plan in response to these submissions.

7 CONTACT DETAILS

For assistance or clarification in relation to the contents of this Plan please contact Council.

All communication should be addressed to:

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

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