

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 Fairfield City Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or of which it has care and control. The plan will also identify which types of spraying and treatments that are not notifiable.

2. DEFINITIONS OF PESTICIDES

Under the NSW Pesticides Act 1999, a pesticide is an ‘agricultural chemical product’ as defined in the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994, namely:

‘a substance or 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.’*

3. DIFFERENT TYPES OF PESTICIDES

Some families or groups of chemical products which are considered pesticides under current NSW legislation are:

- Bactericides – these destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of bacteria, e.g. swimming pool chemicals containing chlorine and products used to control black spot on plants.
- Baits – these are ready-prepared products or products which need to be mixed with a food to control a pest; inclusive of baits for large pests such as rabbits and for insects, i.e. cockroaches and ants.
- Fungicides – these control, destroy, render ineffective or regulate the effect of fungus.
- Herbicides – these destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of a weed or other unwanted vegetation.
- Insecticides – these destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by an insect.

- Rodenticides – these are pesticides used specifically for controlling rodents such as mice and rats.

A number of living organisms that can control pests have also been registered as pesticides, i.e. Calicivirus has been used to control rabbit numbers and bacilli that act as biological insecticides to control insect larvae i.e. moths and mosquitos.

4. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Fairfield City 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 Fairfield Local Government Area

- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Other sporting facilities – golf courses, tennis courts, skate parks, cycle ways
- Natural waterways – creek corridors and channels
- Road verges and reserves
- Laneways and pathways
- Road, utility or other easements accessible to the public
- Other public places – Showground
- Bush land Reserves

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 Fairfield City Council buildings:

- Childcare centres
- Leisure centres
- Libraries
- Community centres
- Civic centre
- Public toilets
- Amenities buildings

Fairfield 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 following table.

| Public places | Regular user groups | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| Parks, picnic areas and playgrounds | General community Contractors Council staff | High | Selective herbicide spray Non-selective i.e. roundup |
| Sporting fields and ovals | General community School groups Sports groups Contractors Council staff | High | Selective herbicide |
| Road verges/ reserves and roundabouts | General community Contractors Council staff | High | Non-selective herbicide |
| Laneways and pathways | General Community Contractors Council staff | Medium | Selective herbicide spray and spot spray |
| Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, water, sewer, electricity) | General community Contractors Council staff | Medium | Selective herbicide spray |
| Drains and gully pits | General community Contractors Council staff | Low | Selective herbicide spray and spot spray |
| Golf course | General community School groups Contractors Council staff | High | Selective herbicide spray and spot spray |
| Tennis Courts, skate parks and cycle ways | School Groups Sports clubs General community Contractors Council Staff | High | Selective herbicide spray and spot spray |
| Bushland Reserves | General community Contractors Council staff | Low | Selective herbicide spray and spot spray |
| Natural waterways creek line corridors | General community Contractors Council staff | Medium | Selective herbicide spray and spot spray |

| Public places | Regular user groups | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use |
|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| Land reserved under <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act</i> – Fairfield City Farm | School Groups General Community Contractors Council staff Visitors | High | Selective herbicide spray and spot spraying. Spray ant control Animals treated for pests Non selective |
| Interiors of Council Buildings | School groups General community Council Staff Contractors Visitors | High | Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides Rodenticides |
| External surrounds to Council buildings | School Groups General community Contractors Council staff | High | Selective herbicide spray |

5. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the Plan describes how and when Council (either through its staff, contractors or volunteers) will provide notice of pesticide used in public places, including special measures for sensitive places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given (including where the public place has been leased by Council to another party).

These notification requirements are based on Council’s consideration of the following matters:

- Some areas have high visitor use e.g. picnic areas and sportsgrounds, popular parks
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with 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 where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground)
- For some application techniques, the public is unlikely to encounter pesticides e.g. bush regeneration programs using the cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques
- The variable toxicity of pesticides.

As required, notification of pesticide use will be provided by one or a combination of the following:

- Signs
- Information on Council's website (which will describe programmed pesticide use in public places Public notices in local newspapers
- Letters
- Fax and email
- Letterbox drops
- Door knocking
- Phone contact

The Plan will also allow persons and organisations to nominate in writing to have their details placed on a central register for the period of this plan; which would allow them to be notified of certain pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the Plan.

Outdoor Recreation Areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories controlled by Fairfield City Council:

- Parks and reserves
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas

In these public places, signs will be placed near the application area or main entrance to the area at least 2 hours prior to application and remain whilst spraying, or for as long as described on the herbicide label for the following uses:

- High/low volume selective and non-selective herbicides

Where any of the above herbicide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers (and those people/organisations on the register to be notified) will be provided with 5 working days' notice before using a pesticide within 20 metres.

Sporting fields and ovals

For sporting fields and ovals, signs will be placed near the application area or main entrance to the area at least 24 hours prior to application and remain whilst spraying, or for as long as described on the herbicide label for the following pesticide uses:

- High/low volume selective and non-selective herbicides

For sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities, sporting groups and occupiers of adjacent sensitive places who register interest with Council can also have notice of the above pesticide use. Information will be available to the general public on Councils website.

Where any of the above herbicide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers (and those people/organisations on the register to be notified) will be provided with 5 working days' notice before using a pesticide within 20 metres.

Outdoor public thoroughfares and easement

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories controlled by Fairfield City Council:

- road verges/reserves
- roundabouts,
- Laneways and pathways
- Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, water, sewer, electricity)
- Drains

In these public places, information on the use of high/low volume herbicide will be posted on Councils website every year. In urban areas signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or pesticide control order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed)

Where any of the above herbicide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers (and those people/organisations on the register to be notified) will be provided with 5 working days' notice before using a pesticide within 20 metres.

Controlled outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories controlled by Fairfield City Council:

- tennis courts,
- skate parks,
- golf courses
- cycle ways,
- Swimming pool buildings and grounds
- Fairfield Showground

In these public places, signs will be placed near the application area or main entrance to the area at least 24 hours prior to application and remain whilst spraying or as long as the herbicide label for the following pesticides.

- High/low volume selective and non-selective herbicides
- Spot use of insecticides
- Bait rodenticides

Where any of the above herbicide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers (and those people/organisations on the register to be notified) will be provided with 5 working days' notice before using a pesticide within 20 metres

Natural waterways and bush land areas (creek line corridors)

Information on the following types of pesticide use shall consist of signs posted near the application area. Signage will be displayed on the day of application for the following pesticide uses:

- High/low volume selective and non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Bait rodenticides
- Fungicides
- Spray ant control
- Large vertebrate baiting including fox, rabbit and cat (In addition to notice requirements of the label and any relevant permits).

Information on the annual broadscale herbicide application will be posted on Councils website.

Where any of the above herbicide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers (and those people/organisations on the register to be notified) will be provided with 5 working days' notice before using a pesticide within 20 metres.

Interiors of public buildings

For interiors of buildings owned or controlled by Fairfield City Council, signage is to be located in the building to advise when the next treatment will be carried out. Emails will be provided to the relevant building controller, to notify users of the facilities, signs will be provided near the application area or in the main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot spray of insecticides
- Bait rodenticides

Council buildings include but are not limited to:

- Council Chambers
- Toilet blocks
- Libraries
- Museum
- Gallery's
- Neighborhood centres
- Child care centres
- Depots

- Waste management facilities and
- other community buildings

For external surrounds of public buildings warning signs will be located one day prior to and one day following spraying (for programmable spraying) and during spraying, in the treatment area during selective controlled spraying for the following pesticide uses:

* For buildings located on Council land but not owned or controlled by Council, a letter will be sent to the relevant person to advise that spraying will be carried out to the external areas of the building.

Instances where Council will not give notice of pesticide application

Council uses some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home and gardening). Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of the description in this plan (or general information on Councils website). This will apply to minor control of spot weed/vegetation/insect control using a wand or backpack/hand-held spray bottle and low volume sprayer.

Notice will not be provided, however signage will be displayed in the treatment area:

- the application of specific pesticides at Council's nursery
- Minor spot spraying of isolated weeds on Council land with herbicides (natural Bushland areas)
- Where herbicide is below a Schedule 6 for spot spraying only and
- Emergency control work - signage only will be provided.

Special measures for sensitive places

The Regulation requires this Notification Plan to indicate the special protection measures that will be taken if a pesticide is proposed to be used in a prescribed public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place.

Clause 18 of the 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

Direct notification will be provided of any pesticide application to a prescribed public place under the control of Fairfield City Council, or where pesticide applications are carried out by

Fairfield City Council or its contractors in prescribed public places that are under the control of another authority, to the person in charge of any sensitive place adjacent to that public place at least 7 calendar days prior to the scheduled application. In the case of an emergency response shorter notice may be unavoidable.

Where the circumstances relating to a specific sensitive site are such that the notification proposed above is deemed insufficient, Fairfield City Council will negotiate a mutually acceptable notification strategy with the person in charge of the specific sensitive site

Notification of emergency pesticide applications adjacent to sensitive sites

In circumstances where an emergency pesticide application is required in a prescribed public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, the person in charge of the sensitive place will be notified by phone or in person, followed by communication in writing. Every effort will be made to adjust the timing of the proposed pesticide application to meet the circumstances of the sensitive place, but should not be less than 24 hours.

Emergency pesticide notification

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), where possible notices will be located at the site at the time of application and for one day following treatment. If this is not possible, Council will provide information on the pesticide application on request at Council offices.

Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Fairfield City Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, they will be required to:

- Comply with Council's OH&S policy
- Provide fully trained/licensed operators
- Keep records i.e. location, type of chemical and concentration used, wind strength and direction, weather and equipment used.
- Place signage at the sites that are been treated
- Comply with this Pesticide Notification Plan

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Fairfield City Council land that remains a public place they are required to comply with this Pesticide Notification Plan.

6. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses by contractors and Council staff, will include the following information to be documented:

- 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
- contact telephone number and email address of the Council officer who people can contact to 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.

7. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Fairfield City 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 86 Avoca Road, Wakeley
- placing a copy of the plan on the its website
- placing a notice in the local papers the Advance and Champion

8. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every five (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 by way of exhibiting a plan for comment with proposed amendments.
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

9. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Manager of City Works
PO Box 21
Fairfield 1860
Telephone: 9725 0222
or email: mail@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

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.