

HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

PESTICIDES NOTIFICATION PLAN

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1 INTRODUCTION

This pesticides notification plan has been prepared by Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are controlled by Hunter's Hill Council. Council Officers of Hunter's Hill Council assist the General Manager in carrying out Council functions, with respect to the lands managed within the municipality, such as bushland reserves, historic sites, parks and playgrounds, sporting fields, and other public areas under Councils control. Throughout this plan, references to "Council" should be taken to mean Hunter's Hill Council.

The plan allows members of the community to **take action to avoid contact** with pesticides, if they wish.

The plan sets out how the Council will notify the community of pesticide applications it makes 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
- contact details for anyone wanting more information on the plan.

Council manages an extensive land use system of more than 220 hectares including commercial roads, reserves and non – rateable areas.

Council pest management programs aim to apply best practice, humane and cost effective methods that will have minimal impacts on the environment. An integrated approach is adopted which uses a range of techniques wherever possible.

This Pesticides Notification Plan has been written in conjunction with Lane Cove Council.

2 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council applies or allows pesticides to be used in the following categories of outdoor public places it owns or controls within the municipality to which the public is entitled to have access:

- Bushland parks and reserves
- Sporting grounds and surrounds
- Parks and Reserves
- Playgrounds
- Council managed roads verges, laneways and walkways
- Community facilities managed by Council
- Urban spaces.
- Historic Sites.
- Other public areas under Councils control of land connected with the management, maintenance or improvement of reserved lands e.g. access roads and depots.

Information about these places can be obtained at www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au.

The majority of pesticide use by the Council consists of applying herbicides for weed control (primarily glyphosate). Special areas like the sporting grounds will use specialised selective pesticides to control weeds, pests and diseases. Minor uses include applying insecticides to control certain insect pests, termiticides to protect buildings, rodenticides to control rats and bird baits to control birds. Control of pest animals will primarily be 1080. The main user groups of pesticide used in each of the categories of public place are summarised in the following table.

Table 1: Regular user groups, level of use of public places and type of pesticide used in public places controlled or owned by Council

Public Places	Regular User¹ Groups	Level of Use of Public Place	Type of Pesticide Use
Bushland parks and reserves	Bushwalkers, Joggers, Dog Walkers, Bushcare volunteers, employees and Contractors.	High and regular use by residents. Infrequent but increasing use by visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides including plant injection, spot spraying, and painting; • Termiticides, • Vertebrate baits including 1080 and pindone.
Sporting grounds and surrounds	Sportspeople, Joggers, Dog walkers, school groups, fitness groups, passive park users, Employees and Contractors.	High and regular by residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot spraying of non-selective herbicide; • Termiticides, • Broad scale selective herbicides. • Fungicides • Insecticides
Parks and Reserves	Children, Passive park users, Carers, Play groups, Community groups, Employees and Contractors.	High and regular use by residents; variable and seasonal by visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides including plant injection, spot spraying, and painting; • Termiticides, • Broad scale selective herbicides
Playgrounds	Children, Passive park users, Carers, Play groups, Community groups, Employees and Contractors.	High and regular use by residents; variable and seasonal by visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides including plant injection, spot spraying, and painting; • Termiticides, • Broad scale selective herbicides
Council managed road verges, laneways and walkways	Motorists, Pedestrians, Dog Walkers, Employees and Contractors.	High and regular use by residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad scale non-selective herbicides.
Community facilities managed by Council	Community groups, Frequent and infrequent activity groups and visitors; Employees and Contractors.	Regular users, Occasional users, and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot spraying of non-selective herbicide; • Termiticides. • Rodenticides. • Insecticides

¹ 'Regular User' is defined as any frequency between daily to weekly.

Public Places	Regular User ¹ Groups	Level of Use of Public Place	Type of Pesticide Use
Urban spaces	Pedestrians, Dog Walkers, Diners, Employees and Contractors.	Very High Use at peak times by residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad scale non-selective herbicides
Historic Sites	Community groups, Frequent and infrequent activity groups and visitors; Employees and Contractors.	Regular users, Occasional users, and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spraying of selective and non-selective herbicide; Termiticides.
Other public areas under Council's control of land connected with the management, maintenance or improvement of reserved lands e.g. access roads and depots.	Employees and Contractors, Pedestrians, Dog Walkers.	Infrequent users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spraying of non-selective herbicide; Broad scale non-selective herbicides.

3 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

Notice of pesticide use will be provided in one or more of the following ways:

- the erection or placement of signs²,
- postage of letters and letterbox drops,
- through the media (print and/or web),
- via telephone, fax, email or personal contact.

Situations where no notification will be given are described in 3e.

Other public areas under Councils control of land connected with the management, maintenance or improvement of reserved lands e.g. access roads and depots.

3A How and When Notice of Pesticide Use Will Be Provided

i. Bushland Parks and Reserves

Signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council office and via the contact number shown on the sign. 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). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

² Signs put up by Council are often removed or subjected to vandalism. While Council will make every effort to replace signs removed or vandalised it cannot guarantee that this will occur in all situations.

ii. Sporting Grounds and Surrounds

At sporting fields and ovals, signs will be located at the major entrances to the area to be treated and at a location where they are most likely to be seen e.g. amenities block, change room (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available via the contact number on the sign. 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). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried or the withholding period has expired.

iii. Parks and Reserves

At all parks and reserves signs will be placed at the major entrances to the playground to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to closure and will remain in place at least until the playground is re-opened for public use (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

iv. Playgrounds

At all playgrounds signs will be placed at the major entrances to the playground to be treated (except for minor control of insect pests using handheld aerosols). Additional information will also be available at the local Council office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to closure and will remain in place at least until the playground is re-opened for public use (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

v. Council Managed Road Verges, Laneways and Walkways

Along Road verges, laneways and walkways, signs will be placed before and after the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council office and via the contact number on the sign. 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). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

vi. Community Facilities Managed By Council

At Community facilities managed by Council, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council Office and via the contact number on the sign. 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). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

vii. Urban spaces

At Community facilities managed by Council, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council Office and via the contact number on the sign. 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). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

viii. Historic Sites

At historic sites, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council office and via the contact number on the sign. 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). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried. In some situations there will be direct liaison with the relevant stakeholders.

ix. Other Public Areas Under Council's Control of Land Connected With the Management, Maintenance or Improvement of Reserved Lands e.g. Access Roads and Depots

In these areas the method of notification will vary.

- For vertebrate pesticides covered by a Pesticide Control Order, notification will be as specified in the relevant Order (see Appendix 1 for the notification requirements for 1080), unless the Order does not specify all of the information required by the Pesticides Regulation. If the latter occurs, signs and/or notices will also provide the information required by the Pesticides Regulation (see section 4 of this Plan).
- For ground spot-spraying herbicides in areas frequently used, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the pesticide has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).
- When using insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, termiticides or bird-baits, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available at the local Council office and via the contact number on the sign. 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). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

3B Special Measures for Sensitive Places

Clause 18 of the *Pesticides Regulation* defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school;
- kindergarten;
- childcare centre;
- hospital;
- community health centre;
- nursing home; or
- place declared to be a sensitive public place by the Environment Protection Authority by notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

For pesticide (except for those situations described in 3e) use within 150 m of sensitive places listed in cl.18, Council will provide prior or concurrent notice to that sensitive place by phone, door-knocking or letterbox drop, depending on what is practicable.

3C Notification of Emergency Pesticide Applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications 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), signs will be placed "on site" (with the exception of those situations described in 3e). Additional information will also be available by contacting Councils number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

3D Pesticide Contractors

To assist its compliance with this plan, where the Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, it will require a written commitment that they will use signs, letters; letterbox drops etc. according to the notification requirements of this Plan. Where possible, Council will require contractors, as a condition of their contract, to comply with this plan.

3E Public Places and Pesticide Uses Where Council Will Not Provide Any Notification

Council will not provide notification in any of the following public places:

- public places over which persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land. For these places, Council will not provide notification of pesticide use, but it will request the lessee to carry out notification of the lessee's pesticide use in a manner consistent with this plan. Where possible, Council will require lessees, as a condition of their lease, to comply with this plan.
- public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is unrelated to the pesticide use [except for playgrounds; see 3(a)vi]
- bushland areas where there are no immediate walking tracks

In addition, Council will not provide notification for the following pesticide uses in any of the public places it controls or owns:

- pesticides used in small quantities and readily available at retail outlets to the general public for the control of pests for which they are registered

Example 1: small quantities (less than 20 litres of "ready-to-use" spray mix) of glyphosate and metsulfuron herbicides applied by a hand-held applicator, or by cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques

Example 2: minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using baits or hand-held aerosols.

4 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with 20 (1) (h) of the *Pesticides Regulation*, the following information will be available from site signs/notices or by contacting the phone number listed on such signs/notices and from the local Council office:

- the full product name of the pesticide as it is listed on the label;
- the purpose of the application;
- the proposed date or date range of the pesticide application;
- the place of pesticide use;
- contact telephone number of an officer from the Council Area Office where the pesticide is being applied; and
- any warnings regarding re-entry to the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit for use.

In all cases the spray-operator will also be able to provide this information.

5 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Copies of the plan will be available at the Hunter's Hill Council Customer Service Desk, 22 Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill NSW 2047.

The plan can be downloaded from the Council website www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au

6 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

Unless there is a specific need for an earlier review, this notification plan will be reviewed every five years. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the plan;
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan; and
- recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7 CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact the Council regarding the notification plan or to obtain details of specific pesticide applications in lands managed by Council should, in the first instance, contact:

Hunter's Hill Council
22 Alexandra St
Hunters Hill NSW 2047
Ph: 9879 9400

Appendix 1: Lists of parks, playgrounds, sporting grounds, and bushland areas in Hunters Hill

Sporting grounds
Boronia Park Playing Fields
Gladesville Reserve
Riverglade Reserve
Tarban Creek Reserve
Picnic spots and bushland – Waterfront
Clarkes Point
Boronia Park Bushland
Kelly's Bush and Foreshore
Richmond Crescent Bushland
Valentia St Wharf surrounds
Woolwich Baths
Murray Prior Reserve
Ferdinand St Reserve
Woolwich Lookout
Fern Rd Reserve
Lyndhurst Reserve
Villa Maria
Gale St Reserve
Other Parks or Reserve land
Mornington Reserve
Timbrell Reserve
View St Reserve
Onions Point Reserve
Wharf Reserve
Prince Edward Parade
Francis St Reserve
Figtree Park
Playground Parks
Heydon Reserve
Buffalo Creek Reserve
Shelley Park
Hardy Memorial Park
Weil Park
Harry Shelly Reserve
Harding Memorial Park
Roadsides and End of Road Reserves

Appendix 2: Map of the Hunters Hill Municipality

