

Policy – Pesticide Plan

Introduction

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

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. This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray bottle.

Policy

a) Outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within Carrathool Shire area.

- public parks and gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities.

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community 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 pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- spray termiticides , ant and spider control.

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places', under subsection 3d) Special measure for sensitive places) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

For **playgrounds and picnic areas** only, prior notice will be extended to 7 days by placing signs for all the above pesticide uses. For these areas only, signs will also be placed for at least 48 hours after spot herbicide or insecticide use or placement of ant control baits.

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 uses faxed or emailed at least 48 hours prior to application.

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b) Outdoor public thoroughfares (local, regional and state roads) 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 Carrathool Shire:

- laneways and pathways
- road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths
- drains

In these public places information on the favoured program for broadscale herbicide on road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpath laneways, pathways and drains, will be published in Council Corner every month.

As well as the above, Council will provide parties who have registered an interest with Council prior notice at least 5 days before use of herbicides.

Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides or parts of these public places near their properties.

c) Certain Council buildings

For pesticide use in Council chambers, Council owned libraries, community halls and centres including public amenities 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 pesticide uses:

- spot use of insecticides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant and spider control.

d) Special measure 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
- place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place have already been noted. (Refer to section 3a))

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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, door-knock or letterbox drop, depending upon what is practicable.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Council will organise a door-knock in that sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes before, so people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous pest infestation.

e) Emergency pesticide applications

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), Council will, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application.

f) 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 still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notices of pesticide use must include **all** 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 place where the pesticide is to be used
- contact telephone number and address of the Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice
- any warnings regarding re-entry to 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 public and workers.

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 libraries and offices of Goolgowi and Hillston

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- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at www.carrathool.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in the Hillston Spectator and the Area News
- including a leaflet in the annual rates notice advising residents of the plan and where they can view a copy of it
- including reference to the plan in Council Corner (monthly publication circulated to all residents of Carrathool Shire).

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the plan
- placing the plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes and calling for public submissions
- in the light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Colin Kane
 MANAGER, SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
 Stipa St
 GOOLGOWI NSW 2652
 Ph: 02 6965 1306
 Fax: 02 6965 1379
 Email: council@carrathool.nsw.gov.au

APPENDICES

- a map of the LGA boundaries showing key localities
- a list or map of some public places within the LGA (e.g. parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, sporting fields).
- A list or map of "sensitive places" as defined in section 3d).
- Details of "control register" of persons to be notified when pesticides are to be used in their area of interest (section 3).

SIGNED: POSITION: GENERAL MANAGER

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