



# Pesticide Use Notification Plan

## August 2020

 70 Central Ave,  
Oran Park NSW 2570

 [mail@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@camden.nsw.gov.au)

 PO Box 183, Camden 2570

 [camden.nsw.gov.au](http://camden.nsw.gov.au)

 4654 7777

 4654 7829

 DX 25807

 ABN: 31 117 341 764

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Notification Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation). The plan sets out how Camden Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to outdoor public places that it owns or manages.

In the Camden Local Government Area (LGA), pesticides are used in public places when necessary to eliminate weeds, protect public property from pest damage, to protect the users of the public places from nuisance or danger, and to meet the community expectations for aesthetically appealing parks and public facilities.

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

As a result of its implementation, the Notification Plan will provide opportunities for the community to knowingly reduce their contact with pesticides and further ensure that Council's use of pesticides is conducted in a safe, responsible manner which minimises harm to its community and the environment.

## 2. DEFINITION

- a) A **pesticide** is any substance or mixture of substances used to destroy, suppress or alter the life cycles of any pest. These include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides.
- b) A **sensitive place** is defined in *Clause 39* of the Regulation as:
  - A school, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre;
  - A hospital, community health centre or nursing home; and
  - any place declared to be a sensitive place by the NSW Environment Protection Authority by order published in the Gazette.

## 3. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or manages in the Camden LGA, including and not limited to:

- Public parks, reserves and other green open space areas;
- Playgrounds;
- Sport fields, ovals and courts and skate facilities;
- Planter boxes and flower displays;
- Street trees;
- Civic spaces;
- Road verges and streetscape planting;
- Footpaths, laneways and public roads;
- Drains, waterways and natural areas; and
- Cemeteries.

This notification plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticides applications made to any building, amenities, or structure that is maintained by Council, including and not limited to:

- Council's Administration Building;
- Depots;
- Libraries;
- Community halls and centres;
- Art gallery;
- Sporting amenities; and
- Public convenience and structures.

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 presented in the following table.

| Public places   | Regular user groups   | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use   |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Parks and reserves</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> <li>Sporting groups</li> <li>Passive recreational users</li> <li>Schools</li> <li>Companion animals</li> </ul>         | High                         | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides<br>Vertebrate baiting |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> <li>Childcare and community groups</li> <li>Schools</li> </ul>   | High                         | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides                       |
| <b>Sport fields, ovals, courts and skate facilities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> <li>Active recreational users</li> <li>Passive recreational users</li> <li>Sporting Groups</li> <li>Schools</li> </ul> | High                         | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides                       |
| <b>Planter boxes and flower displays</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> </ul>  | Low                          | Insecticides – contact<br>Fungicides – contact  |
| <b>Civic spaces</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> </ul>  | High                         | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides                       |

| Public places  | Regular user groups   | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use   |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Road verges, pavements, laneways and streetscapes</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> <li>Passive recreational users (walkers, cyclists)</li> <li>Companion animals</li> </ul> | High                         | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides |

|   |   |               |  |
|---|---|---------------|--|
| <b>Drains, waterways and natural areas</b>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> </ul>  | Low to medium | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides        |
| <b>Cemetery</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> </ul>  | Low to medium | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br><i>Rodenticides</i> |
| <b>Exteriors and interiors of Council buildings, amenities and structures</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents and visitors</li> <li>Childcare and Community groups</li> <li>Regular and casual hirers</li> <li>Schools</li> <li>Employees</li> </ul> | High          | Insecticides – contact and systemic<br>Herbicides – selective and non-selective/systemic and contact<br>Fungicides/algaecides<br>Rodenticides        |

#### 4. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

Camden Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places and the arrangements for emergency pesticide applications where prior notice cannot be given.

These notification requirements are based on Council's assessment of:

- The level and type of usage of public places where pesticides may be used;
- The extent to which members of the community who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (young children, pregnant, ill or elderly people) are likely to regularly use these 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 pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by any individual or combination of the following:

- Signs;
- Letters;
- Email;
- Letterbox drop;
- Door knocking;
- Phone contact;
- Newspapers; and
- Website.

Council will respond to all reasonable requests for information made to Council concerning pesticide usage (For example, provision of Safety Data Sheets, copy of pesticide labels).

#### **4.1 Exemption from Notification**

Council will not give notification where a small quantity of pesticide that is widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests and weeds using baits, small application bottles, cut and paint or stem injection techniques or aerosol spray cans.

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

##### **a) Outdoor public places**

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned and managed by Council, including:

- Public parks, reserves and other green open space areas;
- Playgrounds;
- Sport fields, ovals and courts and skate facilities;
- Civic spaces;
- Drains waterways and natural areas; and
- Cemetery.

In these public places, signage will be displayed near the application area or at the main entrance/s to the site immediately prior to application. These signs will remain in place until the application has been complete or as per the product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot herbicides;
- Spot insecticides;
- Broadscale selective herbicides;
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- Broadscale insecticide; and
- Fungicides.

Where pesticide applications occur adjacent to sensitive places the occupiers will be provided with at least 24 hours' notice by phone, mail, email or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable) prior to targeted application.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in a public park, reserve or open space adjacent to a sensitive place, Council will organise a door knock in that sensitive place, immediately prior to application.

In the case of aquatic weed spraying on the Nepean River, notification will be given no greater than fourteen days prior and no less than seven days prior to the application.

##### **b) Other outdoor public places accessible to the public**

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned and managed by Council:

- Planter boxes and flower displays;
- Street trees;
- Road verges and streetscape planting; and
- Footpaths, laneways and public roads.

In these public places, signage will be displayed near the application area or main entrance to the site immediately prior to application.

These signs will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot herbicides;
- Broadscale selective herbicides;
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides; and
- Rodenticides.

Where pesticide applications occur adjacent to sensitive places the occupiers will be provided with at least 24 hours' notice by phone, mail, email or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable) prior to targeted application.

#### **c) Exteriors and interiors of Council buildings**

For exteriors and interiors of buildings owned and controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance 24 hours prior to application and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot insecticides;
- Broadscale insecticide;
- Spray and bait termiticides;
- Spay and bait ant control; and
- Rodenticide.

Where pesticide applications occur adjacent to sensitive places the occupiers will be provided with at least 24 hours' notice by phone, mail, email or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable) prior to targeted application.

#### **d) Vertebrate Pest Control**

For vertebrate baiting in all Council areas, specific notification requirements are detailed on the product label or as advised by Local Land Services – Biosecurity Division. These can involve the provision of at least one week's notification either by letterbox drop to all adjoining residents and users and/or signage placed around area of control, and to remain in place for at least two weeks after the application.

#### **4.3 Notification of 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, Council will provide notice by posting temporary signage at the treatment site at the time of application, and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements.

#### **4.4 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places**

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, it will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan. This shall be achieved by either conducting the notification itself or delegating the notification as part of the works specified.

Where persons, committees or organisations hold an existing lease, licence or interest on Council land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will require such organisation to undertake notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

## **5. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED**

All forms of notification proposed for the public areas outlined in the plan will contain the following information in accordance with *clause 41(h)* of the Regulation:

- The full name of the pesticide to be used;
- The purpose for which the pesticide is to be used;
- The dates on which, or the range of dates during which, the pesticide is to be used;
- The places where the pesticide is to be used;
- Any warnings about limitations on the subsequent use of or entry onto the land if such warnings are specified on the approved label for the pesticide or in the permit for use of the pesticide;
- Contact details for the Council Officer and/or the pesticide operator's details; and
- Signs will be of a standard design that will be easily recognisable to the general public.

## **6. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN**

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 Camden and Narellan Libraries;
- Placing a copy of the plan on its website;
- Placing a notice in *the Sydney Morning Herald* and/or *Camden Advertiser*; and/or
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

## **7. FUTURE REVIEW OF THE PLAN**

The notification plan will be reviewed every four years or when Council's circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- A report on the progress of implementing the plan;
- Placing the current plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes and/or calling for public submissions; and
- In the event of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations to the plan.

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

Anyone wishing to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places, can contact Council by:

- Post - Manager Open Space and Sustainability, Camden Council, PO Box 183, Camden NSW 2570
- Email - [mail@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@camden.nsw.gov.au)
- Online - [www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)