

## **Pesticide Use Notification Plan - 2018**

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## 1 Introduction

This pesticides use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Act 1999 No.80 (The Act), the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) and the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).

The aim of the plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Council will ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

The plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council to public places. The provisions of this plan will also apply to contractors engaged by Council where pesticide application is a component of the contract.

The plan describes:

- Pesticide use by The City of Newcastle
- Public places that are covered by the plan
- Who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use
- The types of pesticide use at these public places
- How and when Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places
- How the community can access this plan and get more detailed information about Council's notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

## 2 Pesticide Use by The City of Newcastle

In accordance with the legal definition, 'Pesticide' includes all substances or mixtures used for destroying or preventing infestations of plants, destroying or preventing pests associated with plants, or destroying any other insect or animal pests.

Pesticide use by The City of Newcastle can be categorised into the following types:

- Spot herbicides – are applied by portable hand sprays/wands or power-operated units with hand guns for the control of weeds
- Spot insecticides – are applied by portable hand sprays/wands or power-operated units with hand guns for the control of insects
- Cut and paint herbicides – are applied by hand to the cut surface of woody plants
- Broadscale selective herbicides – are applied by a vehicle-mounted boom and selectively kill weeds
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides - are applied by a vehicle-mounted boom and kill all weeds
- Broadscale insecticides - are applied by a vehicle-mounted boom and selectively kill insects
- Spot fungicide – are applied by hand sprays or wands for the control of fungi
- Broadscale fungicides – are applied by a vehicle-mounted boom for the control of fungi
- Bait termiticide – baits for the control of termites
- Bait rodenticide – baits for the control of rodents
- Bait ants / cockroaches – baits for insect control
- Spot miticide – are applied by hand sprays or wands for the control of mites
- Broadscale miticides – are applied by a vehicle-mounted boom for the control of mites
- Baits (rabbit, fox and wild dog) - baits for the control of rabbits, foxes and wild dogs

Pesticides are only used when necessary and, when possible, as part of an integrated pest control program. Pesticide applications may be programmed as part of routine maintenance works, associated with new projects, or reactive to situations where new pest or weed infestations occur.

Among the programmed works there are some applications which are seasonal due to the life-cycle of the target and climatic conditions.

The reactive applications may be either non-urgent, or urgent (emergency) situations. Non-urgent situations are those where there will be no serious risk to the public, threat of infrastructure damage or rapid spread of weeds if the control can be done in the near future. The necessary works can therefore be scheduled to fit in with Council's available resources

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and work allocations.

Emergency situations present an immediate risk to public safety (eg the presence of wasps and feral bees at certain locations), and require a rapid response for control.

Council also uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (such as home gardening). 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.

## 3 Types of Public Places

The locations where Council propose to use, or allow the use of pesticides can be categorised as:

- Public Parks and garden beds – this may include picnic facilities and playgrounds
- Swimming pool facilities – including buildings and garden areas
- Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities – this may include playgrounds
- Road verges, medians, footpaths and laneways
- Watercourses and waterbodies
- Golf course – Beresfield public golf course, including buildings and grounds
- Council Buildings and amenities
- Natural Areas – i.e. bushland reserves, beach dunes, coastal heath, and other areas of predominantly native vegetation, and
- Newcastle’s Stockton Beach Tourist Park.

In accordance with the requirements of the Regulation, this plan must also describe notification procedures in place for sensitive places.

Sensitive places are defined as any:

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Childcare centre
- Hospital
- Community health centre
- Nursing home
- Place declared to be a sensitive place by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (note: there are no declarations at the time of preparation of this plan).

The sensitive places where Council applies pesticides comprise:

- Council-owned childcare centres (i.e.: Beresfield)
- The Alice Ferguson Community Centre in Merewether.
- Newcastle Elderly Citizens Centre.
- Various Community Centres (i.e.: Elernmore Vale).

In addition to providing notification to the sensitive places advising of a pesticide application on their property, Council will provide notification to sensitive places if an application is made adjacent to that property.

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'Adjacent' in this context is defined as land that is adjoining the sensitive place which does not have a physical barrier or easement separating the sites. A physical barrier would be a wall or fence, while an easement could include a road, drain, path or cycleway. Therefore, special notification provisions will also be made for all sensitive places, which are not owned by Council, that are located adjacent to parks, gardens, fields and ovals.

The provisions for notification when pesticides are used at sensitive sites, or for sensitive sites with applications on adjacent land are described in Section 5.

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## 4 Public Place Use and Types of Pesticides

Table 1 below contains a listing of the types of users, and the level of that use, for the different categories of public places. The types of pesticides which Council may use in these areas are also given

Type of Public Place	Regular User Groups	Level of use of Public Place	Type of Pesticide Use
Public parks and garden beds	Families – picnics and parties, particularly on weekends Children and parents at playgrounds Recreational walkers, dog walkers and joggers Personal trainers and participants Council staff	Low to High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Spot fungicide Broadscale fungicide Bait termiticide Bait rodenticide Spot miticide Broadscale miticide
Swimming pool facilities	Families School carnivals Lap swimmers Council Staff	Seasonal – High during summer months, Low (or shut) over winter	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Spot fungicide Bait termiticide Bait rodenticide Baits ants / cockroaches Spot miticide



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<p>Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities</p>	<p>Formal team sports (mostly weekends) with participants and spectators                      Training                      School carnivals                      Recreational walkers, joggers and dog walkers                      Informal sports (often children)                      Children and parents at playgrounds                      Personal trainers and participants</p>	<p>Depending on use for formal events, can be very high on some days, low on others</p>	<p>Spot herbicides                      Spot insecticides                      Broadscale selective herbicides                      Broadscale non-selective herbicides                      Broadscale insecticides                      Broadscale fungicide                      Bait rodenticide                      Baits ants / cockroaches                      Broadscale miticide</p>
<p>Road verges, medians, footpaths and laneways</p>	<p>General public                      Council staff</p>	<p>Footpaths and laneways high to medium                      Medians low</p>	<p>Spot herbicides                      Broadscale selective herbicides</p>
<p>Watercourses and waterbodies</p>	<p>Children playing on banks                      Model boat enthusiasts</p>	<p>Very low</p>	<p>Spot herbicides                      Herbicides (Noxious Weeds)</p>
<p>Beresfield Golf course</p>	<p>Players                      Recreational walkers and dog walkers</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Spot herbicides                      Spot insecticides                      Broadscale selective herbicides                      Broadscale insecticides                      Broadscale fungicide                      Bait rodenticide                      Broadscale miticide</p>
<p>Council buildings and amenities</p>	<p>Staff                      Visitors                      Patrons</p>	<p>Medium to high</p>	<p>Spot insecticide                      Bait termiticide                      Bait rodenticide                      Bait ants / cockroaches</p>
<p>Natural Areas</p>	<p>Walkers, joggers, bike riders</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Spot herbicides                      Cut and paint herbicides</p>
<p>Newcastle's Stockton Beach Tourist Park</p>	<p>Residents, holidaymakers and staff</p>	<p>Medium to high (seasonal)</p>	<p>Spot insecticides                      Spot herbicides                      Baits (rabbit)</p>

## 5 Notification Arrangements

### 5.1 General

Notification to the public of pesticide use will be through a combination of:

- Signage
- Information on Council's website
- Newspaper notices
- Phone or email advice, and
- Letterbox drops.

The notification practices have been developed taking account of the level of usage of public places, the opportunities for exposure to the pesticides used, and the types of pesticide used.

#### 5.1.1 Signage

There will be two types of signs used:

- Signs for notification of planned works (the 'Planned works' sign), and
- Signs indicating current pesticide usage (the 'Pesticide in use' sign).

'Planned Works' signs will be placed at a prominent location at the main entry point(s) of the affected location. These signs will provide details of;

- 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 dates or date range of the pesticide use (weather permitting)
- The place where the pesticide is to be used
- Contact telephone number and email 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, and
- Further signage to be installed when the application occurs.

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be placed at the limit of the affected area when the work is in a defined location (e.g. park, garden, oval, area of road maintenance works), and will be erected immediately before commencing the pesticide application.

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Alternatively, spot pesticide applications may be made by mobile operators, these being road brooms, street and gutter foot patrols, the rapid response team, or mobile road maintenance gangs. These operations will have 'Pesticide in Use' signs on the vehicles, or the trolleys used by the street and gutter foot patrols. The nature of these operations makes it impractical to place signs at the limit of a defined area.

'Pesticide in Use' signs will provide details of:

- 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
- Contact telephone number for the council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers (an example shown as Appendix 2).

'Pesticides in Use' signs for application in parks and gardens will be removed when the chemical application is dry, or, if the pesticide being used has a withholding period, after the expiry of that time.

## 5.1.2 Internet

This Plan is available on Council's website. The address is

<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Living/Residents/Pests-Weeds/Weed-Control>

## 5.1.3 Newspaper Notices

Newspaper notices are used for pesticide application to aquatic weeds in accordance with the provisions of Council's Environment Protection Licence (see section 5.2).

## 5.1.4 Phone and Email Advice

Email and phone advice to occupiers or facilities managers will be used in some circumstances (in addition to signage). Information provided will be:

- Full product name of the pesticide to be used
- Purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated
- The proposed dates or date range of the pesticide use (weather permitting)
- The place where the pesticide is to be used
- Contact telephone number and email address of the council officer who can be contacted to discuss the application, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product

label or the APVMA permit.

Where this notification is provided to a school (a sensitive place) for pesticide application on an adjacent sports field, the school will also be advised that no sports or other activities should take place on the oval during that day.

Situations where these methods will be used are described in Section 5.2.

### **5.1.5 Letterbox Drops**

Letterbox drops to occupiers will be used in some circumstances (in addition to signage). Situations where these methods will be used are described in Section 5.2.

## **5.2 Notification for Different Public Places**

The specific arrangements for each of the types of public place are described below:

### **5.2.1 Public parks and garden beds**

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be erected immediately prior to the pesticide application.

Where parks and gardens are located adjacent to sensitive places, notification will also be provided to that sensitive place by phone or email 24 hours before the planned pesticide application. A listing of these places and appropriate contact details will be kept at Council.

### **5.2.2 Swimming pool facilities**

For pesticide applications to turf and gardens, the facility manager will be contacted by phone or email at least 48 hours prior to the application, and advised details of:

- 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 dates or date range of the pesticide use (weather permitting)
- The area where the pesticide is to be used
- Contact telephone number and email address of the council officer who can be contacted to discuss the application, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit.

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be erected immediately prior to pesticide applications.

## **5.2.3 Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities**

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be erected immediately prior to the pesticide application.

Where fields, ovals and sporting facilities are located adjacent to sensitive places, notification will also be provided to that sensitive place by phone or email 24 hours before the planned pesticide application. A listing of these places and appropriate contact details will be kept at Council.

## **5.2.4 Road verges, medians, footpaths and laneways**

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be prominently displayed on vehicles for mobile operations, or at the limit of the work area for stationary operations. Signs for stationary works will be erected immediately prior to the pesticide application.

At times, council staff on foot patrol spot spray herbicides with small hand-pumped spray units.

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be displayed on the spray unit, or on the equipment trolley.

## **5.2.5 Watercourses and waterbodies**

All applications of pesticide for the control of aquatic weeds are conducted in accordance with Council's Environment Protection Licence no 5583 for application of herbicides to waterways of Newcastle City. Notification procedures included in the Licence conditions are that the licensee must erect a warning sign adjacent to the waters where the herbicides are applied, that the licensee must, at least seven days prior to the application of the herbicides in the waters, give written notification to any occupier of land adjacent to the waters into which the herbicides are to be applied, and the licensee must publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the waters, notifying of the intention to apply herbicides to the waters.

As an additional precaution, pesticide applications at watercourses near schools are always conducted during school holidays where and when possible.

## **5.2.6 Beresfield Golf course**

The golf course professional will be contacted by phone or email prior to the application, and advised details of:

- 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 dates or date range of the pesticide use (weather permitting)
- The area where the pesticide is to be used
- Contact telephone number and email address of the council officer who can be contacted to discuss the application, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit.

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For routine applications, this advice will be provided at least 48 hours prior to the application. On occasions, pest infestations at the course require urgent treatment, and these situations will be treated as an emergency (see section 5.3) and the professional contacted as soon as possible.

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be erected immediately prior to the pesticide application.

## **5.2.7 Council buildings and amenities**

'Planned Works' signs will be erected at least 48 hours prior to the application.

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be erected immediately prior to the pesticide application.

The facility manager will also be contacted by phone or email at least 48 hours prior to the application, and advised details of:

- 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 dates or date range of the pesticide use (weather permitting)
- The place where the pesticide is to be used
- Contact telephone number and email address of the council officer who can be contacted to discuss the application, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit.

The facility manager will also be requested to distribute this information to staff at the site. When the facility is a sensitive place, the phone or email advice will be provided at least 72 hours prior to the application. In addition to the information listed above, the facilities manager is also provided with a Safety Data Sheet for the pesticide to be used.

## **5.2.8 Natural Areas**

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be erected immediately prior to the pesticide application.

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## 5.2.9 Newcastle's Stockton Beach Tourist Park

'Planned Works' signs will be erected at least 48 hours prior to the application.

'Pesticide in Use' signs will be erected immediately prior to the pesticide application.

The facility manager will also be contacted by phone or email at least 48 hours prior to the application, and advised details of:

- 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 dates or date range of the pesticide use (weather permitting)
- The place where the pesticide is to be used
- Contact telephone number and email address of the council officer who can be contacted to discuss the application, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit.

The facility manager will also be requested to distribute this information to staff at the site.

For rabbit baiting with Pindone, which may occur at the tourist park, there are specific notification requirements detailed in the product label. These involve the provision of advice to all adjoining neighbours, and notices about the poison, to be posted in the Tourist Park, until the program has ended and all baits removed. These procedures will be followed by Council in addition to the measures described above.

## 5.3 Emergency Notification

Emergency situations requiring a rapid response do not allow prior notification. In these situations, notification will consist of at least current pesticide use signage at the limit of the work area, however specific additional requirements may also be used, and these will be assessed and implemented on a case-by-case basis.

## 5.4 No Notification

As described in Section 2, Council uses small quantities of commonly available pesticides for 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.

As these pesticides are of relatively low toxicity and are used in low quantity, and present minimal risk, Council does not intend to provide notice for such applications other than by way of this description in this plan.

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Notice will not be provided for public places over which other persons or organisations hold a lease on Council land.

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

Notice will not be given for cut and paint herbicide applications made during bush or coastal revegetation works.



## 6 How the Community will be Informed of this Plan

Council will advise residents of the contents of the plan by;

- Making a copy of the plan available for public viewing in Council's libraries and the City Administration Centre at 282 King Street Newcastle during office hours
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at <http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au>
- Placing a notice in the Newcastle Herald
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

## 7 Future Reviews of the Plan

This Plan will be reviewed every three years. The review will include:

- Any amendments identified by Council as being necessary
- Placing the plan on public exhibition if Council considers on reasonable grounds that the amendments are of sufficient substance to warrant public consultation, and calling for public submissions
- In light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

## 8 Contact Details

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

The Manager Civil Works  
The City of Newcastle  
PO Box 489

Phone 02 49742000

Or email to [mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au)

**WARNING**

**CURRENTLY  
USING**

**GLYPHOSATE  
ROUNDUP -  
BIACTIVE**

**FOR**

**WEED CONTROL**

**IN THIS AREA**

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## Appendix B - Pesticide Examples

*Examples of commonly used Pesticides (Herbicides / Pesticides) to carry out treatments within The City of Newcastle LGA*

Trade Name - Roundup Bi-Active  
Active Constituent – 360 g/l Glyphosate (present as the isopropylamine salt)  
Chemical Group – M  
Herbicide

Trade Name - Brushoff Brush Controller  
Active Constituent – 600g/kg Metsulfuron-methyl  
Chemical Group – B  
Herbicide

Trade Name – Vigilant Herbicide Gel  
Active Constituent – 43g/kg Picloram potassium salt  
Chemical Group – I  
Herbicide

Trade Name – Coopex Insecticidal Dusting Powder  
Active Constituent – Permethrin 25:75 10g/l  
Chemical Group – Pyrethrin  
Pesticide

Trade Name – Crackdown Residual Insecticide  
Active Constituent – Deltamethrin 10g/l  
Chemical Group – Pyrethroid Pyrethrin  
Pesticide

Trade Name - Monument Liquid  
Active Constituent – 100g/l Trifloxysulfuron Sodium  
Chemical Group – B  
Herbicide

Trade Name - Destiny  
Active Constituent – 100g/kg Iodosulfuron - Methyl Sodium  
Chemical Group – B  
Herbicide

Trade Name – Spearhead  
Active Constituent – 20g/l Clopyralid, 15g/l Diflufenican, 300g/l MCPA present as the Potassium Salt  
Chemical Group – F & I  
Herbicide

Trade Name – Acelepryn  
Active Constituent – 200g/l Chlorantraniliprole  
Chemical Group – 28  
Pesticide

Trade Name – Sledgehammer  
Active Constituent – 750g/kg Halosulfuron - Methyl  
Chemical Group – B  
Herbicide