



MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

2018 - 2022

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the regulation)

Pesticides (e.g. Herbicides) are used by Moree Plains Shire Council to control noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation on roadsides and other public lands under Council jurisdiction. Pesticides (e.g. insecticides, rodenticides) are used periodically to treat white ant and other insect/vermin problems in Council buildings and other structures.

Definition of a Pesticide

Under the NSW Pesticides Act 1999, **a pesticide is an agricultural chemical product**. This is defined by the Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 being a substance, or mixture of substances, that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:

- 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
- Destroying a plant; or
- Modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or
- Attractive a pest for the purpose of destroying it.

Aim of the Plan

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by Moree Plains Shire Council. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Council ensures 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 plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the plan
- Who regularly uses 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
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council

This plan states that Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate noxious weeds, to protect public property from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger.

The majority of pesticide use consists of the application of herbicides for weed control. The frequency of programmed applications range from 3-4 times per year for

sports fields, 2-3 times for parks with spot spraying applications for garden beds occurring on a monthly basis. Public thoroughfares, road verges, drains and easements are treated 2-3 times per year or as required.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Moree Plains Shire 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 *Moree Plains Shire Council Local Government Ares*.

- public gardens, parks, playgrounds/picnic areas
- cemeteries
- sporting fields and ovals
- public land owned or controlled by the *Moree Plains Shire Council* including:
 - road verges and reserves
 - laneways and pathways
 - road easements accessible to the public
 - drains
 - commons
 - public buildings
 - Aquatic centre, swimming pools and associated structures

Moree Plain Shire 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
Public Parks & gardens, picnic areas, playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local; residents • Young children • Visitors • Social groups (e.g. ethnic & religious groups) • Recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers). 	High - Very High (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale selective herbicides • Spot insecticides
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors • Local residents 	Low - Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Sporting fields and ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting clubs and associations • Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadscale selective herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadscale non-selective herbicides Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broadscale insecticides
Road verges, laneways and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents Rural residents Business people Travellers and visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low for rural roads; Medium - high for urban roads and laneways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Spot herbicides
Pathways and laneways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents People who work in the area Visitors to the area Recreational users, (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, cyclists) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium - high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot herbicides
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, , sewer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents and people who work in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Spot herbicides
Drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents living adjacent to a drain; Local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain Council staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low - medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadscale non-selective herbicides Spot herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Commons Crown land Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational users Local residents Visitors/social groups Livestock Lease holders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low - Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot herbicides Broadscale selective herbicides
Public buildings and other structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council staff Local residents Visitors People who work in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium-High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selective insecticides & fumigants Rodenticides
Artesian baths, swimming pools, buildings and grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents Visitors Swimming Club Schools 	Medium High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot herbicides

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when *Council* will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are determined by an assessment of:

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides are to be used;
- The extent to which members of the public most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, pregnant women, sick or elderly persons) are likely to access these areas on a regular basis.
- The extent to which sporting or other activities could lead to contact with pesticide;
- The type of pesticide(s) used.

Notice of pesticide use may be given in one or more ways:

- Published on Councils website: www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au
- E mail, telephone, fax or personal contact
- Advertisements in print media
- Advertisements on local radio
- Mail outs or letter drops
- Strategically placed on site signage
- Flashing lights on Spray Rigs and/or signage

Exemption from Notification

Where Council uses a small quantity of pesticide that is widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening), Council does not intend to provide notice.

Application of these herbicides will be by stem injection, low pressure knapsack or cut/scrape/paint methods, where in each case chances of spray drift or off target damage is very minimal

4. INFORMATION PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 19 of the regulation, notice of pesticide use will provide the following information:

- The place where the pesticide will be used
- The proposed date or range of dates of application
- The full name of the pesticide
- The purpose of use, clearly stating what weed/other is being targeted
- Any time restrictions regarding re - entry or other use of the site after pesticide application
- The telephone number of the sprayer/contractor who can be contacted regarding the use of the pesticide
- Contact details for Moree Plains Shire Council

Council will respond to all reasonable request for information made available to Council concerning pesticide usage. (e.g. Material Safety data Sheets)

Special measures for sensitive places

Pesticides Regulation 2009 defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home
- places declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places adjacent to designated sensitive places will consist of written notice, email or telephone call

provided to the appropriate person in charge at least 24hrs preceding for the any pesticide applications.

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, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), Council will display signage prior to application, these remaining in place until work has been completed or as per product label requirements.

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 requirements of this Plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place, Council will require notification of pesticide use in these areas in accordance to this plan:

5. 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 on the notification methods outlined in the plan [i.e. specify 'arrangements' for consultation such as producing a review report, calling for public submissions, exhibiting a plan for comment with proposed amendments]
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

6. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Moree Plains Shire Council will advise the community of this draft plan and its contents by:

- Display of the plan on Councils Website www.mpssc.nsw.gov.au
- Advertising the plan in local print media
- Making copies of the Plan available for viewing at all Council's branch offices and main office
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette
- The draft plan will be on display for four (4) weeks

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Mr Angus Witherby

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or access the website www.mpsc@nsw.gov.au