



## Pesticide Notification Plan

|                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Commencement Date  | 28 February 2023            |
| Council Department | Infrastructure & Operations |
| Contact Officer    | Manager-Cowra Services      |
| Revision Required  | Every 3 Years               |

#### Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed at three (3) yearly intervals at least, to ensure it meets all statutory requirements and the needs of council. It may also be reviewed at other times as determined by council.

#### Revision History

| Version | Council Meeting & Resolution No | Responsible Officer                  |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| I       | 25 June 2007 – 217/2007         | Director-Infrastructure & Operations |
| Version | Manex Meeting Date              | Responsible Officer                  |
| 2       | 30 March 2016                   | Manager-Cowra Services               |
| 3       | 28 February 2023                | Director-Infrastructure & Operations |

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## **I. Definition**

Under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999*, a pesticide is an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* (Cwlth), namely:

**'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
- Modifying an effect of another agricultural chemical product; or
- Attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.'

### **I.1 What are some of the different types of Pesticides?**

Some families or groups of chemical products which are considered pesticides under current NSW legislation are:

- **Bactericides**  
These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of bacteria.
- **Baits**  
These are ready-prepared products or products which need to be mixed with a food to control a pest.
- **Fungicides**  
These control, destroy, render ineffective or regulate the effect of a fungus.
- **Genetically Modified Organisms**  
Agricultural crops can be genetically modified to incorporate resistance to pests and diseases, herbicide tolerance, or to slow the ripening of fruit or alter the timing and duration of flower production.
- **Herbicides**  
These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of a weed or other unwanted vegetation.
- **Insecticides**  
These destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by an insect.
- **Lures**  
These are chemicals that attract a pest to a pesticide for the purpose of its destruction. Solely food-based lures.
- **Rodenticides**  
These are pesticides used specifically for controlling rodents such as mice and rats.

- **Repellents**

These repel rather than destroy a pest. Included in this category are personal insect repellents used to repel biting insects.

## **2. Introduction**

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

This Pesticide Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation).

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 Cowra 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 Cowra Shire 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 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;
- 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.

## **3. Public Places Covered by this Plan**

Cowra Shire Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls:

- Public Parks, Gardens and Playgrounds;
- Sporting Fields and Ovals;
- Road Verges, Lanes, Reserves and Footpaths;
- Road, Rail, Utility or other easements accessible to the public;
- Drains;
- Grounds of Public Buildings;
- Swimming Pool Grounds;
- Camping Grounds;
- Commons;
- Other Public Places.

Cowra Shire 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 summarised in the following table.

| Public Places                              | Regular User groups  | Level of Use  | Type of Pesticide Use   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Public Parks, Gardens & Playgrounds        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young families</li> <li>Elderly people</li> <li>General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers).</li> </ul> | High<br>(frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale insecticides</li> <li>Fungicide (usually garden beds)</li> <li>Spray ant control</li> </ul> |
| Grounds of Public Buildings                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> </ul>   | High<br>(frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale insecticides</li> <li>Fungicide (usually garden beds)</li> <li>Spray ant control</li> </ul> |
| Sporting Fields and Ovals                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>School sports groups</li> <li>General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers)</li> </ul>    | High  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale insecticides</li> </ul>   |
| Road Verges, Lanes, Reserves and Footpaths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road</li> </ul>   | Low for rural roads;<br>Medium to high for urban roads                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Spray ant control</li> </ul>   |
| Easements Accessible to the Public         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents and people who work in the area</li> </ul>  | Low to medium   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>  |
| Drains                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents living adjacent to a drain;</li> <li>Local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain.</li> </ul>                 | Low to medium   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>  |

| Public Places                     | Regular User groups   | Level of Use  | Type of Pesticide Use  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| Swimming Pool Grounds             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming clubs and associations</li> <li>School swimming groups</li> <li>General recreational users</li> </ul> | High          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale insecticides</li> <li>Spray ant control</li> </ul> |
| Camping Grounds/<br>Caravan Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitors</li> </ul>  | High          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale insecticides</li> <li>Spray ant control</li> </ul> |
| Commons                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents or visitors</li> </ul>   | Low to Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>   |
| Other Public Places               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents or visitors</li> </ul>   | Low to Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>   |

#### 4. Notification Arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Cowra Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places.

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

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides may be used;
- The extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides and are likely to use these areas regularly;
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (such as picnic areas where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground).

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 (or general information on Council's website). This will apply to minor control of outdoor insect pests aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray bottle.

All other incidences of spraying, the public will be notified by way of one or more of the following:

- Information on Council's website;
- Publication in local newspaper;
- Signage;
- Personal Contact (sensitive places and emergency applications only).

#### **4.1 Special Measures 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 (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation).

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places adjacent to any listed sensitive place will consist of personal contact for all pesticide uses.

#### **4.2 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, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information by request to the person applying the pesticide.

#### **4.3 Pesticide Contractors**

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Council will ensure that the contractor has their own notification plan prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017. If the contractor does not have a plan or if the contractors plan does not meet the Pesticides Regulation 2017, the contractor will be required to make notification in accordance with Council's plan.

#### **4.4 Lessees of Public Places**

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.

### **5. What Information Will be Provided**

In accordance with Pesticides Regulation 2017, 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 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.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

As already noted, Council's website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address will be publicised in rate notices and by regular inclusions in Council's weekly newspaper section in the Cowra Guardian.

## **6. How the Community Will be Informed of this Plan**

Cowra Shire 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 main office at 116 Kendal Street Cowra 2794;
- Placing a copy of the plan on Council's website;
- Placing a notice in the Cowra Guardian.

## **7. Future Reviews of the Plan**

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. 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.

## **8. Contact Details**

Anyone wishing to contact Cowra Shire Council to discuss the Pesticide Management Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Manager-Cowra Services  
Cowra Shire Council  
Private Bag 342  
Cowra NSW 2794

P: 02 6340 2070  
E: [council@cowra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cowra.nsw.gov.au)  
W: [www.cowracouncil.com.au](http://www.cowracouncil.com.au)

**9. Pesticide Use Notification Form**

Cowra Shire Council  
Private Bag 342  
Cowra NSW 2794

Phone: 02 6340 2000  
council@cowra.nsw.gov.au  
www.cowracouncil.com.au

**Pesticide Use Notification Form**

|                                       |                  |   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Product Name                          |                  |   |
| Purpose of Use                        |                  |   |
| Proposed Dates for Treatment          |                  | Between ____ / ____ / ____ and ____ / ____ / ____ |
| Area to be Treated                    |                  |   |
| Sensitive Places Effected             |                  |   |
| Special measures for Sensitive Places |                  |   |
| Any warnings regarding re-entry       |                  |   |
| Contact Details                       | Council          | Cowra Council                                     |
|                                       | Telephone Number | 02 6340 2000                                      |
|                                       | Email            | council@cowra.nsw.gov.au                          |

**Note:**

- 1) Full product name to be stated
- 2) Purpose of use eg: weed control, ant control etc.
- 3) Date must be at least 1 week in advance
- 4) Area, park name, street name, (if need be identification of section of road or street).

A copy of this form is to be given to Council's Corporate and Community Relations Advisor for inclusion in Council's weekly news, published in the Cowra Guardian and for posting on Council's website

**Please Note:** This Management Document and the above form are registered in CM9 (Council's Document Management System)