

The background of the page is a photograph of a well-maintained garden. In the center, there is a stone fountain with a curved arch. To the right, a set of stone steps leads up a small hill. The garden is filled with various plants, including tall cypresses, rounded shrubs, and a white statue. The overall scene is lush and green.

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Public places covered by this plan.....	4
3. Notification arrangements	6
3.1 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided	7
3.1.1 Outdoor areas.....	7
3.1.2 Certain Council buildings.....	8
3.1.3 Emergency pesticide applications.....	9
3.1.4 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places.....	9
4. What information will be provided	9
5. How will the community be informed	10
6. Future reviews.....	10
7. Contact details.....	10

1. Introduction

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (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 public authorities. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid potential contact with pesticides, if they wish. The Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

The Pesticide Notification Plan sets out how the Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by the 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 the 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 the Council's notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with the Council.

This plan forms a component of the Council's integrated pest management policy. This policy states that the 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.

2. Public places covered by this plan

Hornsby Shire Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places within this Council's Local Government Area:

- Public gardens
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sportsgrounds
- Camping grounds
- Public land owned or controlled by the Hornsby Shire Council, including:
 - road verges and reserves
 - laneways and pathways
 - road, rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - drains
- Galston Rural Sports Facility
- Land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (Crosslands Reserve)
- Grounds of government schools where Hornsby Council has undertaken ground maintenance responsibility
- Bushland reserves

This plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Council buildings: Council chambers, libraries, community halls/centres, childcare facilities and swimming pool buildings and grounds.

The Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarised in the following table. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

Table of Areas Covered by Pesticide Use Notification Plan			
Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public gardens Parks Playgrounds Picnic areas Camp grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Recreational users ▪ Wedding groups ▪ Social groups ▪ Children and young families ▪ Elderly people 	High (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Spot insecticides ▪ Broad scale selective herbicides ▪ Broad scale non selective herbicides ▪ Fungicide (usually on garden beds) ▪ Baits (usually rabbit control)
Sportsgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sporting clubs and sporting association ▪ School sports groups ▪ General recreational users ▪ Social users 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Spot insecticides ▪ Broad scale selective herbicides ▪ Broad scale non selective herbicides ▪ Broad scale insecticides ▪ Spray or bait termiticides near facilities ▪ Rodenticides near facilities
Road verges and reserves Laneways and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents ▪ Visitors to the area 	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Broad scale non selective herbicides
Road, rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public Drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents ▪ Visitors to the area 	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Broad scale non selective herbicides
Land reserved under National Parks and Wildlife Act (Crosslands Reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local residents ▪ Recreational users 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Baits (usually fox and rabbit control)
Community Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community groups ▪ Bush care groups ▪ Council staff 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Baits (usually rabbit control) ▪ Spot insecticides
All Bushland Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community groups ▪ Bush care groups ▪ Council staff ▪ General public 	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Baits (usually rabbit control)
Grounds of government schools (John Purchase Cherrybrook and Carlingford High)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School students and teacher ▪ Sporting clubs and sporting associations ▪ School sports groups 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Spot insecticides ▪ Broad scale selective herbicides ▪ Broad scale insecticides ▪ Spray or bait termiticides near facilities ▪ Rodenticides near facilities

Table of Areas Covered by Pesticide Use Notification Plan			
Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Galston Rural Sports Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Competitive and recreational user 	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicide ▪ Broad scale selective herbicide ▪ Broad scale insecticide
Leased sites owned by Council i.e.Tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreational users ▪ School students and teachers ▪ Sporting clubs and sporting associations 	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot herbicides ▪ Spot insecticides
Interiors of public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council employees ▪ Lessee's ▪ General public ▪ Library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly) ▪ Young children and their carers (childcare facilities) ▪ Parents groups/playgroups ▪ Church groups 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spray or bait termiticides ▪ Rodenticides ▪ Spot herbicides
Swimming pool buildings and grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council employees ▪ Recreational users ▪ School students and teachers 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spray or bait termiticides ▪ Rodenticides ▪ Spot insecticides ▪ Spot herbicides

3. Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Hornsby Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on Hornsby 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 , such as children, elderly, sick etc, and are likely to use these areas regularly
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in an area could lead to direct contact with pesticides i.e. sporting activities that result in contact with the ground, picnic areas where food is consumed
- The type of pesticide used.

3.1 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

3.1.1 Outdoor areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA):

- Public parks and gardens
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities.
- Galston Rural Sports Facility
- Camping grounds.

In these public places portable signs stating “Caution: Keep Clear Herbicide Application in Progress” will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance at time of application and remain until re-entry time for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot spray of selective herbicides
- Spot spray of non-selective herbicides
- Spot spray of insecticides.

The notices will contain the full product name of the pesticide to be used, the purpose for which the pesticide is to be used and the dates on which, or the range of dates during which, the pesticide is to be used and a name and contact phone number of the Council officer responsible.

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA):

- Public parks and gardens
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sportsgrounds and related sporting facilities.
- Galston Rural Sports Facility
- Camping Grounds
- Grounds of government schools
- Bushland reserves
- Land reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife ACT 1974 (Crosslands)
- Public land owned or controlled by the Hornsby Shire Council, including:
 - road verges and reserves
 - laneways and pathways

- road, rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
- drains.

In these public places portable signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 8 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Broad scale selective herbicides
- Broad scale non-selective herbicides
- Broad scale insecticides
- Fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- Spray termiticides and ant control
- Bait termiticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- Bait bird control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- Bait rabbit and rodent control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (Clause 18 of the 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.) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

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.

3.1.2 Certain Council buildings

For pesticide use in Council chambers, Council-owned libraries, community halls and centres and childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot use of insecticides
- Bait rodenticides
- Spray termiticides
- Spray ant control
- Bait termiticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)

- Bait bird control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- Bait any control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (Clause 18 of the 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) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

3.1.3 Emergency pesticide applications

An emergency pesticide application in a public place may be required to deal with biting or dangerous pests (such as rodents, wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or similar creatures). In these situations the Council will, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, the Council will provide information via its Council information line number, or members of the public can ask for information from the person applying the pesticide.

3.1.4 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 20(1)(h) of the Regulation, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- The full product name of the pesticide to be used and
- The purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated and
- The proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use and
- The places where the pesticide is to be used and
- Contact telephone number of the Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to, or use of, the place, if the specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA A¹ permit.

¹ The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

5. How will the community be informed

Hornsby 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 296 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby NSW 2077
- Placing a copy of the plan on its website – hornsby.nsw.gov.au.
- Placing a notice in The Sydney Morning Herald and/or The Hornsby Advocate and The Hills District Times
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

6. Future reviews

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years. The review will include:

- 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 Hornsby Shire Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Parks Service Unit Co-ordinator

Phone: 02 9847 4811

Fax: 02 9847 4899

Email hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Website: hornsby.nsw.gov.au.