



NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS COUNCILS

(Comprising the Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Uralla, Walcha & the New England Weeds Authority)

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This 'Pesticide Use Notification Plan' has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how the **New England Tablelands Councils** (NETC, comprising the Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes, Uralla, Walcha and the New England Weeds Authority) will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls.

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 the Tablelands Councils. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Councils ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

This plan sets out how the Tablelands Councils will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by member Councils 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 Councils 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 Councils notification arrangements,
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted, and
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

This plan forms a component of Councils integrated pest management program. This program involves the use of pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate priority and/or environmental 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 applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of programmed applications will depend on seasonal conditions and/or various specific requirements. However, the treatment of priority weeds along the verges of Council roads will be, at least, an annual occurrence. Bait insecticides are used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used may include fungicides, rodenticides and large vertebrate baits.

Further information on individual Councils pesticide use can be obtained by either calling your local Council Office or by visiting your Council website (refer Section 7).

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

The Tablelands Councils propose to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the municipal areas.

- Public gardens
- Parks (including Malls)
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Public land owned or controlled by the Constituent Councils including:
 - Rural road verges and reserves
 - Urban road verges, footpaths and reserves
 - Laneways and pathways
 - Road, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - Utility or other easements NOT accessible to the public
 - Drains
 - Bridges
 - Camping grounds
 - Commons
 - Council reserves
 - Council grazing leases
 - Crown land under the care and/or control of Councils,
 - Other public places e.g. swimming pools.

Although not required by the Regulation, this notification plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of Council buildings.

The Tablelands Councils 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.

Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of area	Type of pesticide use
Public gardens	The General Public	Low	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Broad-scale selective or non-selective herbicides. Fungicides
Parks (including Malls & Car-parks)	The General Public	Medium to High depending on location.	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Broad-scale selective or non-selective herbicides.
Playgrounds	The General Public	Medium to High depending on location	Spot herbicides or insecticides.
Picnic areas	The General Public	Medium	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Broad-scale selective or non-selective herbicides.
Sporting fields and ovals	Schools, Sporting Clubs	High	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Broad-scale selective or non-selective herbicides.
Rural road verges and reserves	Local residents and/or visitors walking, riding or driving along the road	Low	Spot spraying of both selective and non-selective herbicides. Occasionally 'spray ant control' near schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, etc. Large vertebrate baiting.
Urban road verges, footpaths and reserves	The General Public	Medium	Spot herbicides or insecticides.
Laneways and pathways	The General Public	Medium	Spot herbicides or insecticides.
Road, utility or other easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, water, sewer, electricity)	The General Public	Medium	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Large vertebrate baiting.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of area	Type of pesticide use
Utility or other easements NOT accessible to the public (e.g. operational land, dams)	Nil	Very Low	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Large vertebrate baiting.
Drains	The General Public occasionally	Very Low	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Large vertebrate baiting.
Bridges	The General Public	Very Low	Spray or bait termiticides.
Camping grounds	The General Public	Medium	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Broad-scale selective or non-selective herbicides. Large vertebrate baiting.
Commons	Graziers; Occasionally the General Public	Low	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Large vertebrate baiting.
Crown Land under the care and/or control of Council	The General Public	Low	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Large vertebrate baiting.
Council Reserves and Grazing Leases	The General Public Public Lessees	Low	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Large vertebrate baiting.
Other Public places e.g. swimming pools	The General Public, Sporting groups, Other community groups & Clubs.	Seasonal; Medium to High.	Spot herbicides or insecticides. Rodenticides
Interiors of public buildings	The General Public, Sporting groups, Other community groups & Clubs.	Medium to High.	Rodenticides

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when the Tablelands Councils will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for **sensitive places** (playgrounds, aged & childcare facilities, pre-schools) 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 the Councils 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 (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) 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), and
- The type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by an appropriate combination of:

- Information on Council websites (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places),
- Signs,
- Letters,
- Phone contact,
- Fax and email,
- Letterbox drops,
- Door knocking.

The Councils will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan.

Councils also use small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening).

The Councils **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 websites).

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.

(a) Outdoor Recreation Areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Councils within the Constituent Councils Local Government Area (LGA):

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

In these public places, signs will be provided for the general community near the application area and/or the main entrance to the area, at least two (2) working days prior to application, and remain for at least two (2) working days after the application (or a longer period if so declared on the pesticide label) for the following pesticide uses:

- Broad-scale application of selective herbicides
- Broad-scale application of non-selective herbicides
- Broad-scale application of insecticides
- Fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- Application of termiticides and ant control

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur '**adjacent to Sensitive Places**' (see list of 'Sensitive Places', under subsection (d) 'Special Measures For Sensitive Places', page 7) the occupiers will be provided with at least two (2) working days prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

For **Playgrounds and Picnic Areas** only, signs will also be placed for at least two (2) working days prior to application and remain for at least two (2) working days after the application (or a longer period if so declared on the pesticide label) for the following:

- Spot herbicides, or
- Insecticide use, or
- The placement of ant control baits.

For **Parks, Sporting Fields, Ovals and related sporting facilities**, sporting groups, booked users and occupiers of adjacent sensitive places who register interest with Council can also have notice of the above pesticide uses faxed or emailed at least two (2) working days prior to application.

For **other outdoor recreation areas** information will only be available to the general community on council websites (as updated) or from Council Offices about the forward program for applications of the following pesticide uses:

- Spot herbicides, or
- Spot insecticides, or
- Bait ant control.

b) Outdoor Public Thoroughfares, Utilities and certain Easements accessible and/or not accessible to the Public

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following categories of public place owned or controlled by the NETC within the LGAs:

- Road shoulders, verges, road reserves
- Laneways and pathways and footpaths
- Road, sewer or other easements accessible to the public
- Utility or other easements NOT accessible to the public
- Drains
- Bridges
- Commons
- Council reserves
- Council grazing leases
- Crown land under the care and control of Council

For these public places, information on the programmed and reactive use of broad-scale and spot-spray herbicides will be posted on Council websites (as updated).

Where programmed spot herbicide/pesticide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, **adjacent to Sensitive Places, and/or for parties who register interest with Council**, prior notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop will be provided at least two (2) working days beforehand.

Notice will **NOT** be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides e.g. along boundary fences; overhanging vegetation.

c) Certain Council Buildings

For the following pesticide uses 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 and/or the main entrance at least two (2) working days prior to application and remain for at least two (2) working days after the application (or a longer period if so declared on the pesticide label):

- Spot use of insecticides, or
- Bait rodenticides, or
- Application of termiticides, or
- Spray ant control.

For the following pesticide use in the facilities listed above, information will be posted on Council websites, or may be obtained by contacting your local Council Office:

- Bait termiticide, or
- Bait ant control.

d) Special Measures for Sensitive Places

Clause 18 of the Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any or all of the following:

- A school or pre-school
- A kindergarten
- A childcare facility (including early intervention centres)
- A hospital
- A community health centre
- A nursing home, or
- A place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) by notice in the gazette.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place have already been noted.

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.

Other defined Sensitive Areas within the scope of this Plan.

Vineyards. This Plan recognises the particular sensitivities surrounding viticulture. A 'No Spray Zone' will apply on public land to all vineyards provided that the owners agree to undertake effective control of declared noxious weeds on these zones. An exception to this provision would exist when the owner of the vineyard sanctions the use of herbicides under strict conditions in full knowledge that the application is to be made.

e) Emergency Pesticide Applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with garden pests to preserve valuable plants, or biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), Council will, wherever possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application.

f) 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. Councils will not provide notice of a lessee's use of pesticide.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the Pesticides 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 address and telephone number of the Council who people can contact to discuss the notice, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place/area treated (if specified on the pesticide product label or the (APVMA) permit).

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

As already noted, Council websites will have a dedicated area that describes the programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places, with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address/es are publicised in Council's advertisements in local newspapers and Council newsletters.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

DRAFT PLAN

The Council advised residents of this **DRAFT** plan and its contents by:

- Placing a notice in newspapers circulating in the Constituent Council area,
- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its offices at Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha, and
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council websites.

FINAL PLAN

The Councils advised residents of this plan, its contents and where it will be displayed by:

- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette,
- Placing a notice in newspapers circulating in the Constituent Council area,
- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its offices at Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha,
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council websites.

Councils may also include a leaflet in the first rates notice following gazettal, advising residents of the plan and where they can view it.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will initially be reviewed after three (3) years (or sooner if circumstances require) and thereafter every five (5) years. The review will include:

- A report on progress of implementing the plan,
- Public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan,
- Recommendation/s for alterations (if applicable) to the plan,

7. CONTACT DETAILS

Further information on Councils pesticide use can be obtained by either calling your local Council Office or by visiting your Council website (listed below).

Armidale Regional Council	ph. 02 6770 3600	www.armidale.nsw.gov.au
Guyra Office	ph. 02 6779 1577	www.guyra.nsw.gov.au
Glen Innes Severn Council	ph. 02 6730 2300	www.gisc.nsw.gov.au
New England Weeds Authority	ph. 02 6770 3602	www.newa.nsw.gov.au
Uralla Council	ph. 02 6778 6300	www.uralla.nsw.gov.au
Walcha Council	ph. 02 6774 2500	www.walcha.nsw.gov.au

APPENDICES

These include:

- A map of the Council boundaries showing Council areas and key localities.
- An example of a Notification Sign.

Example 'Notification Sign':

 WARNING  PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS COUNCILS (NETC) <i>(Comprising the Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes, Uralla, Walcha & the New England Weeds Authority)</i>
PESTICIDE NAME:
BEING USED FOR:
AREA TO BE TREATED & METHOD OF APPLICATION:
PROPOSED DATE/S OF APPLICATION:
ACTUAL DATE OF APPLICATION:
Any Warnings Regarding Re-entry of Treated Area:
For further information Contact: