



FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION PLAN

REVIEWED JUNE 2015

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).

Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, fumigants, bactericides, rodenticides, baits, lures, repellents and pesticides used on animals to control external parasites.

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 contact with pesticides, if they wish. Forbes Shire Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and/or the environment.

The plan sets out how Forbes 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 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 forms a component of Council's integrated pest management policy. This policy states that Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate noxious and 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 range from 6-8 times per year for sports fields, 2-5 times per year for parks and gardens and 5-10 times a year for public thoroughfares. Bait insecticides are used for fruit fly and ant control wherever this is considered an effective solution.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling the Noxious Weeds Inspector, Mr. John Ryan on 6850 2300, mobile 0429929312, or email johnry@forbes.nsw.gov.au.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places within the Forbes Shire Council local government area:

- parks and public gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- cemeteries
- aerodrome, sale yards
- sporting facilities, fields and ovals
- road shoulders, verges and reserves
- laneways, footpaths and pathways
- vacant council or crown lands
- easements accessible to the public
- drains
- waterways i.e. Lake Forbes
- grounds of government schools
- public swimming pools

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.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide used
Public parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young families • elderly people • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, picnickers). 	Very 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 or non- selective herbicides
Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • families • other social groups (e.g. ethnic, religious groups, clubs) 	High (particularly on weekends, public and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • bait ant control • broad scale selective herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide used
Public parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young families • elderly people • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, picnickers). 	Very 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 or non- selective herbicides
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young families 	High (particularly on weekends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticide
Sporting facilities, fields and ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations • school sports groups • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers) 	Medium (particularly on weekends and school sports days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale selective herbicide
Road shoulders, verges and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • general community walking or driving on the road 	Low (for rural roads) Medium to high (for urban roads)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticide • broad scale selective or non-selective herbicides • broad scale selective insecticides
Laneways, footpaths and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • people who work in the area • visitors to the area 	Medium to high (mainly short term passing traffic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective or non-selective herbicides
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, rail, water, sewer, electricity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • people who work in the area 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale selective or non-selective herbicides
Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide used
Drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents living adjacent to drain • local residents or visitors who walk or drive past drain 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides (registered for use in waterways)
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • visitors to the area 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective or non- selective herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide used
Public parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young families • elderly people • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, picnickers). 	Very 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 or non- selective herbicides
Vacant Council or Crown land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • visitors to the area 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective or non- selective herbicides
Other outdoor public places ie. Aerodrome Sale yards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • visitors to the area 	High (sale days) Low-medium (non sale days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective or non- selective herbicides
Grounds of Government Schools or TAFE facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school children • local residents • school staff 	High (during school hours) Low (non-school hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective or non- selective herbicides
Public Swimming pool grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • local residents • sporting groups • visitors to the area 	High (during summer months) Low (during winter months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective herbicides
Waterways i.e. Lake Forbes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • local residents • sporting groups • visitors to the area 	Medium-high (walkers, joggers in close proximity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides (registered for use in waterways)

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Forbes 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 arrangements are based on Forbes 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 (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) 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)

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- type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of one or more of the following:

- signs
- notice in Council's advertisement space of the Forbes Advocate
- information on Council's website
- letters
- fax or email
- letterbox drops
- door knocking
- phone contact.

Council 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.

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 notification for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan (or general information on Council's website), but staff will respond to all reasonable requests for information from members of the community.

This will apply to minor control of outdoor insect pests using baits, powders or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using hose and handgun, a knapsack and wand or hand-held spray bottle.

*(Note: in the following section of the plan, Council has referred to **categories** of public places)*

a)Outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the Forbes Shire Council area:

- public parks and gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities
- cemeteries
- waterways i.e., Lake Forbes

In these public places, 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 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- spot spray selective or non-selective herbicides
- spot spray insecticides
- broad scale selective herbicides
- broad scale non-selective herbicides
- broad scale insecticides
- fungicides

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of **‘sensitive places’**, under subsection (d) **Special measures for sensitive places**) the occupiers will be provided with 24 hours prior targeted notice by phone door-knock or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

Sporting groups, occupiers of adjacent sensitive places and any member of the general community who registers interest with Council, can also have notice of the above pesticide uses, faxed, emailed or phoned at least 24 hours prior to application.

b) Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the Forbes Shire Council area:

- aerodrome, sale yards
- laneways, footpaths and pathways
- road shoulders, verges, and road reserves
- road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public
- vacant council, crown land
- drains

In these public places, signs will be erected in prominent positions, and displayed on weed spraying vehicle, immediately prior to and during pesticide use.

Occupiers of adjacent sensitive places and any member of the general community who registers interest with Council, can also have notice of the above pesticide uses faxed, emailed or phoned at least 24 hours prior to application.

c) Grounds of Government Schools and public swimming pools

Council will provide concurrent notice 24 hours before use to the Department head by phone, or in person.

In the case of schools, pesticide applications should be applied after school hours and preferably on a Friday or in school holidays.

Pesticide applications applied to public swimming pool grounds should preferably be carried out in the “off” season or prior to opening hours.

Information on the following types of pesticide use shall consist of signs posted at the entrances of application areas 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- spot spray selective or non-selective herbicides
- spot spray insecticides
- broad scale selective herbicides
- broad scale non-selective herbicides
- broad scale insecticides
- fungicides

Sporting groups, occupiers of adjacent sensitive places and any member of the general community who registers interest with Council, can also have notice of the above pesticide uses, faxed, emailed or phoned at least 24 hours prior to application.

d) Special measures for sensitive places

Div.3/27 of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 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 (EPA)- now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

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

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.

e) 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 via Council's phone number, or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

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.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with Div.3/29(2) of the Pesticides Regulation 2009, 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.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's main office at Court Street Forbes, during office hours
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website
- placing a notice in the Forbes Advocate
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

Next Revision Date: June 2018

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every three 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 Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of specific details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Council's Noxious Weeds Inspector,
Court Street,
Forbes, NSW 2871.
Phone 0268 502300
Fax 0268 502399
Email johnry@forbes.nsw.gov.au
Or access the website: www.forbes.nsw.gov.au



FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL : Advises that this park, oval, ground or area, will be chemically treated with the pesticide described below, this sign will be displayed 24 hours prior to application, and will remain displayed for at least 24 hours after application.

Name of Pesticide:

Targeted Pest Species:

Date of proposed application:

Area to which treatment applies:

Special Conditions:

Do not walk on treated grounds if wet.

Contact Name and Phone Number: