

**Pesticide Use
Notification Plan for
Outdoor Public Places
Liverpool City Council**
February 2016



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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 Liverpool City 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.

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 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 policy states that the council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate 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. 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 include fungicides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Liverpool Council's Customer Call Centre on 1300 36 2170 or go to www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

2. Public places covered by this plan

Liverpool City Council (LCC) proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA):

- public gardens
- parks (including playgrounds)
- sporting fields and ovals
- bushland
- road verges and reserves
- laneways and pathways
- drains and waterways
- other sporting facilities including Leisure Centres
- other public places (specify)

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 LCC buildings including Libraries, Community halls/centres and Childcare facilities.

Council estimate the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places which is summarised in the following table.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Parks and Public gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young families • elderly people • general recreational users, walkers • other social groups (eg ethnic, religious, clubs) 	high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • fungicide (usually garden beds) • spray termiticides, ant control • bait termiticides, ant control • bait bird control
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young families 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • spray - ant control • bait - ant control
Sporting fields and ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations • school sports groups • general recreational users, walkers. 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broadscale selective herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale insecticides • spray or bait termiticides on facilities • rodenticides near facilities
Road verges and reserves, laneways and paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road • people who work in the area • visitors to the area 	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides
Council Drains and waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residents living adjacent to drains • residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain. • children • contractors • recreational users 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale selective herbicides
Other outdoor public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents and people who work in the area. 	Low-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broadscale non-selective herbicides • broadscale selective herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Interiors of public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lessee/ licensee • Council staff • contractors • library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly) • young children and their carers (childcare facilities) • parents' groups/ playgroups • community associations • church groups • general members of the public 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot insecticides • bait rodenticides • spray termiticides • spray ant control • bait termiticides • bait ant control • bait bird control
Swimming pool buildings and grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lessee/ licensee • council staff • contractors • young children and their carers (childcare facilities) • schools • parents' groups/ playgroups • community associations • church groups • general members 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot insecticides • bait rodenticides • spray termiticides • spray ant control • bait termiticides • bait ant control • bait bird control • spot herbicides

3. Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when 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 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) 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)
- the type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of:

- signs
- information on council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places) and will be publicised in rate notices
- letters
- fax and email
- letterbox drops
- door knocking
- phone contact.

The 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.

Under the Plan, notification **will not** be required for pesticide usage of small quantities in a 24 hour period when the pesticides used are:

- readily available from retail outlets (off the shelf) are used for domestic purposes, and
- used in small quantities of no more than 5 litres / 5 kilograms of concentrated product or 20 litres / 20 kilograms of the ready to use product or,
- used indoors in quantities of no more than 1 litre / 1 kilogram of concentrated product or 5 litres / 5 kilograms of the ready to use product, and
- applied by hand or applied using hand held equipment only with or without coloured dye.

How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

The types of notification of pesticide use to be provided under the categories below are the minimum requirement. All other methods of notification may be used.

3.3.1 Outdoor recreation areas

Categories included in outdoor recreation areas are:

- parks and public gardens and picnic areas
- playgrounds
- sporting fields and ovals.

In these public places, signage will be placed near the application area or main entrance for the general community at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards, as well as signage on the back of or adjacent to onsite operational vehicles.

This notification will occur when the following pesticides are used:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- spray termiticides and ant control
- baits vertebrate

- bait termiticides
- bait bird control
- bait rodenticide (sign should remain in place for entire program).

Information on the forward program for the above applications (updated every three (3) months) and on pesticide uses in outdoor recreation areas will be available to the general community on Council's website. Where practical, the pesticide use program will be advertised on Council's information page in the local newspaper.

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours' notice by phone, mail, email or letterbox drop.

For **playgrounds and picnic areas** only, prior notice will be extended to seven days (7) by placing signs advising the above pesticide uses. For these areas only, signs warning of pesticide use will remain in place for at least 48 hours after the use.

For **sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities**, sporting groups and occupiers will be notified of pesticide applications, by phone, fax or email at least 48 hours prior to application, by Council's Sports and Recreation Officer.

Outdoor public thoroughfare and certain easements accessible to the public

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

- Road verges, road reserves, laneways and pathways
- Easements accessible to the public (eg road, rail, water, sewer, electricity)
- Council drains.

In these public places, signage will be placed near the application area or main entrance for the general community at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards, as well as signage on the back of or adjacent to onsite operational vehicles.

This notification will occur when the following pesticides are used:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- termiticides and ant control sprays
- baits vertebrate
- bait termiticides
- bait bird control
- bait rodenticide (sign should remain in place for entire program).

In these public places, where possible, information on the forward program for broadscale herbicide will be posted on Council's website every three months.

3.3.3 Drains and Waterways

The notification arrangements described below will apply to herbicide applications in waterways controlled by Council within the LGA.

Throughout the LGA, Council applies herbicide to drains and waterways. This is mainly to control aquatic weeds. These applications are generally away from areas that the community frequent and hence are low risk to the public.

For this reason notification will be limited to signage on the back of or adjacent to onsite operational vehicles. This will occur for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides.

3.3.4 Bushland areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to pesticides applications in bushland areas owned or controlled by Council within the LGA.

In these public places, signage will be placed near the application area or main entrance for the general community at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards, as well as signage on the back of or adjacent to onsite operational vehicles. This notification will occur when the following pesticides are used:

- broadscale insecticides
- termiticidal and ant control sprays
- baits vertebrate
- bait termiticides
- bait bird control
- bait rodenticide (sign should remain in place for entire program).

In these public places, signage will be placed near the application area or main entrance for the general community at time of application, as well as signage on the back of or adjacent to onsite operational vehicles. This notification will occur when the following pesticides are used:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides

Other areas

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

- other outdoor public places
- interiors of public buildings
- swimming pool buildings and grounds.

In these public places, signage will be placed near the application area or main entrance for the general community at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards.

This notification will occur when the following pesticides are used:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- termiticidal and ant control sprays
- baits vertebrate
- bait termiticides
- bait bird control
- bait rodenticide (sign should remain in place for entire program).

For **outside Council owned or managed buildings** notification must be given to all lessee/ licensee, hirers and occupiers of the intended application by phone, fax or email at least one month prior to application. Lessee/ licensee, hirers and occupiers must then notify all user groups of the facility or site in accordance with this notification plan.

For the **interior of Council owned or managed buildings** notification must be given to all lessee/ licensee, hirers and occupiers of the intended application by phone fax or email at least one month prior to application. Lessee/ licensee, hirers and occupiers must then notify all user groups of the facility or site in accordance with this notification plan.

Special measures for 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 (EPA).

Where programmed applications occur adjacent to sensitive places, individual prior notice by mail, face to face, email or letterbox drop will be provided at least five (5) days prior to application.

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.

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.

Notification of emergency pesticide applications

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent (or within 100 metres) to a sensitive place, Council will organise a door-knock in that sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes prior to application, so people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous or plague pest infestation.

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 and email address 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 specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA¹ permit.

5. How the community will be informed of this plan

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 33 Moore St, Liverpool and placing a copy of the plan on its website www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au

6. Future reviews of this plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years. 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.

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.

7. Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact Liverpool to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Environment Team

Locked Bag 7064 address

Liverpool BC 1871 NSW

1300 36 2170

Council@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

or access the website www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au