



Hurstville City Council

HURSTVILLE CITY COUNCIL

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

in accordance with

Pesticides Regulation 1995

April 2007

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (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 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 Hurstville City Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council to public places that it owns or controls.

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 (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.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. The frequency of programmed applications range from 4-8 times per year for sports fields, 2-5 times per year for parks and gardens and twice yearly for public thoroughfares. Other pesticides used include fungicides and rodenticides. Further information on Council's pesticides can be obtained by calling Council's Parks Operations Manager on 93306222 or by visiting Hurstville Council's website www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Hurstville City Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Hurstville City Council's geographical area:

- Parks and gardens
- Playgrounds
- Sporting fields and ovals
- public land owned or controlled by the HCC, incl. road verges and reserves, laneways and pathways, easements accessible to the public, and drains
- Golf Course / Tennis Centres / Aquatic Leisure Centre

3. LEVEL OF COMMUNITY USE

Hurstville City 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 below.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children and young families elderly people general recreational users (eg joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers) 	Very 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 fungicide (usually garden beds)
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children young families 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides spot insecticides spray ant control
Sporting fields and ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sporting clubs & associations school sports groups general recreational users (eg joggers, dog-walkers) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides spot insecticides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides broadscale insecticides spray termiticides on facilities
Road verges and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road 	Medium to high for urban and residential roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides
Laneways and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local residents people who work in the area visitors to the area 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides
Easements accessible to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local residents and people who work in the area 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides
Drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local residents living adjacent to a drain local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain 	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides
Golf Course, Tennis Centres, and Aquatic Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amateur and professional golfers social and competition tennis players swimmers, gymnasium users and indoor sports clubs and participants 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spot herbicides spot insecticides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale insecticides fungicides spray ant control

4. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements 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 (eg. 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)
- type of pesticide used.

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

- signs*
- letters
- letterbox drops (in sensitive areas)
- door knocking (in sensitive areas)
- phone contact. (in sensitive areas)

* Signs indicating Pesticide Applications will include:

- where the pesticide will be used
- the full product name of the pesticide
- the purpose of the use of the pesticide
- the proposed date or range of dates of use
- a phone number or email address for the officer who can be contacted about the notice
- any warnings on the pesticide label or permit about how long the area must be avoided after the pesticide application.

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 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 recreations 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):

- parks and gardens
- playgrounds
- sporting fields and ovals.

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:

- broadscale selective herbicides

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

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

Information will be available to the general community on Council's website about the forward program for the application of broadscale non-selective herbicides (updated every three months).

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

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

- road verges and reserves
- laneways and footpaths
- easements accessible to the public
- drains.

Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, adjacent to sensitive places, prior notice by door knock or letterbox drop will be provided at least 48 hours beforehand.

Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their properties.

c) Golf Course, Tennis Centres, Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre

Information on the following types of pesticide use shall consist of signs posted near the application area or in the case of the Golf Course, for at least 24 hours prior to and at least 24 hours afterward on the notice board at the Pro Shop:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- fungicides
- spray ant control

d) 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 (EPA) – now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

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 a case 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 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.

5. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with Clause 11L(2) of the Pesticides Regulation, 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 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 Pesticides Notification Plan and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address will be publicised.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Council will advise residents of the plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's libraries and Civic Centre during office hours
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au

- placing a public notice in the Sydney morning Herald and St George and Sutherland Leader newspapers
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE 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.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Parks Operations Manager
PO Box 205
Hurstville, 2220
Ph (02) 93306222
Fax (02) 93306223

APENDICES

These include:

- Notice of Intended Pesticide Application
- Notice of Pesticide Application
- Map of LGA boundaries showing key localities.

Notice of intended pesticide application

To be used when giving residents prior notice

Notice to: _____

Date or dates of herbicide/pesticide:* _____

(*A range of dates may be used to cover short-term postponements)

Full name of herbicide/pesticide product(s): _____

The pest(s) to be treated are: _____

Where the herbicide(s)/pesticide(s) will be applied: _____

Re-entry period restrictions (if any): _____

The herbicide/pesticide will be applied by: _____

Pest controller contact number(s): _____

Date of this notice: _____

Notice of pesticide application

To be used at the time the pesticide is applied

Notice to: _____

Date(s) of herbicide/pesticide use:* _____

(*Insert date or dates)

Full name of herbicide/pesticide product(s): _____

The pest(s) being treated are: _____

Where the herbicide(s)/pesticide(s) are being used: _____

Re-entry period restrictions (if any): _____

The herbicide/pesticide is being applied by: _____

Pest controller contact number(s): _____

Date of this notice: _____