



Liverpool Plains Shire Council, 60 Station Street, QUIRINDI NSW 2343 (PO Box 152)

Phone: (02) 6746 1755 ♦ Fax: (02) 6746 325 ♦ Email: lpssc@lps.nsw.gov.au
www.lpssc.nsw.gov.au



PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

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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 applies to all land in the Liverpool Plains Shire Council (Council). 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.

Definition

Under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999*, a pesticide is an agricultural chemical product. This is defined by the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* as being 'a substance, or mixture of substances, that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly;

- *Destroying, stupefying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by, or attacks of any pest in relation to a plant, a place or a thing; or*
- *Destroying a plant; or*
- *Modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or*
- *Attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it'.*

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general expectation and right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by Council. The plan allows members of the community to take any such action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Council ensures that registered pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

The plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made on and 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 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 states that Council routinely directs and allows the use of herbicides in public places as part of its functions. The use is designed to destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of weeds or unwanted pest species and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger or for the beautification, management and maintenance of parks and reserves.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of seasonally programmed applications range from 2-5 times per year for sports fields, 2-5 times per year for parks and gardens and 2-3 yearly for public thoroughfares. Bait insecticides are used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety, wherever this is consistent with best management practice and the outcomes are considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodent, bird and large vertebrate baits.



Strategies used and the plans developed are designed and implemented by staff who have attained the AQF4 Qualification. Work involving the handling or the distribution of the pesticides, whether a Council staff member or contractor, will have a minimum Chem Cert 3 Qualification.

Further information on Council’s pesticide use can be obtained during office hours at:

60 Station Street Quirindi
 Phone: 02 6746 1755 or by visiting the website at www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council proposes to use and allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the shire of Liverpool Plains.

- Undeveloped reserves
- public parks, playgrounds & picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals & related sporting facilities
- interior and exterior of certain Council buildings
- public land owned or controlled by the Liverpool Plains Shire council, including:
 - roads and road verges and road reserves
 - streets, laneways and pathways
 - drains, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - swimming pools
 - caravan & camping grounds
 - airports
 - cemeteries
 - waste and recycling depots
 - council’s works depots.

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 in the following table. Variations due to seasonal occurrence of the pest species will ultimately determine the need and appropriate treatment required.

Description of land.	Regular User Groups	Frequency	Pesticide Application Methods
Undeveloped Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General recreation users (e.g. Joggers, dog walkers). 	Low to medium, multiple users,(with short to medium length stays) mainly on weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides and or insecticides • Broad scale selective and non-selective herbicides • Broad scale insecticides • Sprays for termite, wasp & ant control • Bait termite/ant control • Bait rabbit/bird control



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Description of land.	Regular User Groups	Frequency	Pesticide Application Methods
Public Parks, Playgrounds & Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Families • Social groups 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides and insecticides • Broad scale selective and non-selective herbicides • Rodent Bait • Fungicide (usually on garden beds) • Termite and ant control sprays • Ant & wasp control baits • Rabbit/bird control baits
Sporting fields, Ovals Show Ground Racecourse Cross country and Rodeo complex with the related sporting facilities	<p>The associated user groups Sporting clubs, Staff and attending public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School sports groups • General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides and insecticides • Broad scale selective and non selective herbicides • Sprays/baits for termites • Rodent baits near facilities • Bait for rabbit control or: • Other pest species.
Interiors /exterior of certain Council Buildings e.g. Public Halls Childcare Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups. Childcare & Playgroups 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot insecticides and or weed spraying • Baits for rodents • Sprays/baits for termites and ant control • Bird control bait
Road Verge/ Shoulders, Reserves and Footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road 	Low for rural roads Medium to high for urban roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides and or insecticides • Broad scale selective/non-selective herbicides • Rabbit control baits
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, lanes, water, sewer, drains, electricity)	<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 and or insecticides • Broad scale selective/ non-selective herbicides • Rabbit control baits
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locals • Visitors • Schools • Swimming clubs 	High in summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot spraying • Nuisance pest control • Vertebrate pest control



Description of land.	Regular User Groups	Frequency	Pesticide Application Methods
Caravan & Camping Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors • Temporary residents 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and or broad scale selective / non selective herbicides • Ant control baits and sprays
Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aviators • Visitors • Emergency Services personnel • Ground staff 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and or broad scale selective / non selective herbicides spraying • Rabbit control • Wasp control
New and Old Quipolly Dam, Town Creek Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation users • Fishermen • Families • Joggers • Picnickers 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and or broad scale selective / non selective herbicides spraying for weeds and insect control • Rabbit control baits
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors • Shire residents 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot weed spraying • Rabbit control baits • Wasp control
Waste Depots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire residents • Council/contract, employees 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot spraying for weed • Flies/insect control • Rabbit control baits
Council Works Depots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire residents • Council employees 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and or broad scale selective / non selective herbicides spraying for weeds • Wasp & insect control

3. 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 (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)
- the type of pesticide used.



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

- signs/ posters erected at entrances
- information on Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places)
- newspaper advertisements
- phone contact to primary users of areas.

Council will also allow persons and organisations (e.g. school used, or child care facilities) to nominate and 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.

Instances where Council will not give Notice of 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/grass control using a wand or backpack/hand-held spray bottle and low voltage *utility pack* sprayer.

In addition notice will not be given for the following minor pesticide uses:

- Spot spraying of isolated vegetation on Council land with herbicide or insecticides
- Where a chemical is below a Schedule 6 for spot spraying only. Example herbicides are Glyphosate products, & Taskforce
- Minor control by spot application of chemicals to nuisance pests, wasps, ants etc.
- For emergency control work – **signage only** will be provided.

Outdoor Recreation Areas

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

- public parks and reserves
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities
- New and Old Quipolly Dams
- in town creek bank reserves.

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 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)
- termite and ant control sprays
- termite bait (as part of an ongoing program, *i.e.* first use of pesticide only)
- baits for pest bird control (as part of an ongoing program, *i.e.* first use of pesticide only)



- bait rodents (as part of an ongoing program, *i.e.* first use of pesticide only)
- bait for rabbit control (as part of an ongoing program, *i.e.* first use of pesticide only). (Rural Lands Protection Board may be involved.)

Where any pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours notice. Notice may include by phone, mail, email or letterbox drop or by prior agreement mutually acceptable to the occupier and Council.

For **sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities**, sporting groups 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 48 hours prior to application. Information will be available to the general community on Council's website about the forward program for the above applications (updated every three months), and on the following pesticide uses in outdoor recreation areas:

- spot herbicides
- spot insecticides
- bait for: ant, rabbit, or other pest species

Outdoor Public Thoroughfares 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.

- streets, laneways and pathways
- road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths
- road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public
- drains/waterways.

In these public places, information on the forward program for broad scale herbicide will be posted on Council's website every 3 months. For drains only, information on the forward program for use of herbicides will also be included in Council's regular advertisements in local newspapers every three months, to coincide with seasonal variations.

Information on the programmed and reactive spot use of herbicides will also be posted on Council's website every three months. Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, adjacent to sensitive places, and/or for parties who register interest with Council. Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their own properties.

Certain Council Buildings

For pesticide use in childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticides uses:

- rodent baits
- termite sprays
- ant control sprays
- pest bird control baits

Information for the general community will be posted on Council's web-site every 3 months about the above applications and pesticide uses in the above Council buildings, to coincide with seasonal fluctuations.



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: are places and/or any place declared and gazetted 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 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, email, 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 (or within 100 metres) to a *sensitive place*, Council will organise a door-knock within the vicinity of the *sensitive place*, preferably at least 30 minutes before, so people are made aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous or plague pest infestation.

Emergency Pesticide Applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with biting, dangerous or plague 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, information will be provided by contacting Council office on 67461755 or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

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 not give notice of pesticide use by these persons or organisations.

In public areas where multiple agencies have responsibility for land management (pesticide application) on their land, and where there is no physically defined boundaries, where Council is undertaking the pesticide application it will follow this Pesticide Notification Plan unless it is operating under contract to another authority. This will include incidental applications in areas that are controlled by other authorities.



4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L (2) (g) 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 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. As already noted, Council's website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address will be publicised in rate notices and by regular inclusions in Council's regular weekly block newspaper advertisement in local newspapers.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

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

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's main office at Station St Quirindi during office hours
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in the Quirindi Advocate
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

Changes of a minor nature will be implemented on an ongoing "needs to" basis and posted on Council's Website.

The notification plan will be reviewed in its entirety by Council every 3 years from the date of implementation and 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: For anyone wishing to obtain details of specific details of pesticide applications in public places referred to in this notice, is available from the LPSC office on phone (02) 6746 1755, PO Box 152 Quirindi 2343, facsimile (02) 6746 3255, Noxious Weed Control office on 6746 2859.

Email: lpsc@lpsc.nsw.gov.au Web: www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan also includes:

A. Template for pesticide notification, as a **Sample pesticide notification notice**

~~B. Maps of the towns and major villages within the LGA indicating land subject to weed spraying operations (e.g. parks, reserves, sporting fields, road corridors) and sensitive areas as defined in the plan. A full list of Council Land subject to weed spraying will be provided on Council's website. Appendix A.~~



(A) Sample LPSC Pesticide Notification Notice

Pesticide Notification Notice

Pest Species, (being targeted):

Location/Description: (of the area or place to be treated)

Chemical to be used: (Name of the product) Plus any appropriate warnings about limitations on the subsequent use of, or entry onto the land specified on the approved label or pesticide permit:

Proposed date of use:

Telephone Contact Name:

Number:

Further information about this notice is available from Liverpool Plains Shire Council's office:-

By phone: (02) 6746 1755,
Noxious Weed Control Office on (02) 6746 2859
Facsimile: (02) 6746 3255
By mail: PO Box 152
QUIRINDI NSW 2343
Email: lpsc@lpsc.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au

