

10.7. Pesticide Use Notification Plan

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ATTACHMENTS	1. Draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2025 [10.7.1 - 11 pages]
CSP LINK	1. Our Living Environment 1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities 2. Our Built Infrastructure 2.1 Infrastructure and assets meet diverse community needs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the proposed amendments to the Pesticide Use Notification Plan that was adopted by Council in 2015, and to seek Council's endorsement to publicly exhibit the amended Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The NSW Pesticides Regulation requires public authorities to prepare a Pesticide Use Notification Plan (PUNP).
- A PUNP explains how Council will notify members of the community about pesticide use in the public places that Council owns or controls.
- Pesticide notifications are based on the principle that the community has a basic "right to know" about pesticide use in public places. Providing advanced notice allows individuals to limit their potential exposure to pesticides.
- The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) defines pesticides as any substance or mixture of substances used to destroy, suppress, or alter the life cycle of any pest. Pesticides include bactericides, baits, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, lures, rodenticides, and repellents.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council endorse the public exhibition of the amended Pesticide Use Notification Plan for a period of 28 days; and
- 2. THAT** Council note a further report will be provided following the public exhibition period of the amended Pesticide Use Notification Plan.

Background

Council adopted its current Pesticide Use Notification Plan (PUNP) in September 2015, which was developed in accordance with the Pesticides Regulation 2009. Council is now required to review the adopted PUNP in accordance with the Pesticides Regulation 2017.

Report

The PUNP has been updated to ensure compliance with regulation, which requires the inclusion of the following information:

- categories of outdoor public places owned or controlled by Council where pesticides will be used;
- who regularly uses these public places, and an estimate of the level of use (for example, high, medium, or low use);
- how and when Council will provide those users with information about proposed pesticide use in public places (for example, what notification arrangements will be used);
- special steps Council will take when pesticides are used in outdoor public places that are adjacent to sensitive places (for example, childcare centres, schools, and nursing homes);
- what information will be provided (this information must include the name of the pesticide used, why it is being used, date/s of use, place of use, contact details for an officer at the Council, and any re-entry warnings on the label/permit);
- how the community will be informed of the notification plan;
- how future reviews of the notification plan will be conducted; and
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss the notification plan with Council.

The Regulation does not specify how Council gives notice to the community, nor does it specify for which pesticide uses notice must be given. It is up to Council to identify the most practical, cost-effective methods of notification that are suited to the community's needs.

It must also be clear from the plan where notices of pesticide use in public places will be provided for particular pesticides use and/or for particular public places; the plan must specify those uses and/or places.

Key Amendments

The key amendments within the Plan are outlined as follows:

- referencing the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*;
- addition of a Table of Contents page;
- a change in the PUNP review timeline, from three to five years;
- additional contact details ;
- minor formatting issues to ensure consistency throughout the documents; and
- the correction of spelling and grammatical errors.

The amended PUNP has been reviewed by a panel of representatives from across the organisation including Council's Manager for Work Health and Safety Manager.

Consultation requirements

It is proposed to place the amended PUNP on public exhibition for 28 days, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

Financial/Resource Implications

Progressing, exhibition, and finalising the amendments to the Plan in the manner proposed will be managed within existing operational budgets.

Legislation

NSW Pesticides Regulation 2017



NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

**DRAFT PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN
(PUNP)**

June 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (PUNP) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation). The PUNP sets out how North Sydney Council will notify the community of pesticide applications it makes, or allows to be made, to public places that it owns or controls.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) defines pesticides as substances used to manage or eliminate pests. These substances include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and more. The EPA regulates their use in NSW to protect human health, the environment, and property

The aim of the PUNP is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned, managed or controlled by North Sydney Council (Council). The PUNP provides opportunity for members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they wish. It is Council's intention to ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in accordance with regulation in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

The PUNP sets out how 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 PUNP describes:

- what public places are covered by the PUNP
- 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
- how the community can access this PUNP and get more information about Council's notification arrangements
- how future reviews of the PUNP will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this PUNP with Council.

Council is committed to an environmental best practice approach to managing public land and the environment, recognising the use of pesticides in public places only when necessary to eliminate noxious weeds, to protect public property and open space assets 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 some insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Programmed applications are undertaken for sports fields and selected parks and reserves. Programmed applications are also completed for insect control for interiors of listed Council facilities. Non-programmed low impact pesticide namely Roundup (Glyphosate) is also used as required.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling North Sydney Council on 9936 8100 or by visiting the website www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PUNP

North Sydney 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 North Sydney Local Government Area.

- public parks
- playgrounds
- bushland parks and reserves
- public gardens
- sporting fields and ovals
- Council managed road verges, laneways and footpaths
- Cammeray Golf Course
- Other facilities owned by Council or under its care, control, and management

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 the following Council facilities:

- Civic Centre,
- libraries,
- community centres and
- childcare facilities.

The following table estimates of the level of community use; regular user groups and types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places.

Public places owned or controlled by the council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public parks	The general public including recreational users, school groups, contractors and Council employees	High and regular use by residents varies seasonally for visitors	Some spot spraying of non-selective herbicides (Glyphosate) and insecticides. Broad scale applications of programmed selective pesticides.
Bushland parks and reserves	General public including bushwalkers, dog walkers, Bushcare volunteers, Council employees and contractors	Medium to low dependant on access	Some spot spraying of non-selective herbicides, (mostly Glyphosate) and Vertebrate and invertebrate baiting (e.g. termiticides)
Public gardens	General community	Medium	Some spot spraying of non-selective herbicides Spot spraying miticides and insecticides.
Sporting fields and ovals	General community including sporting groups, recreational users, school groups, dog walkers, Council employees and contractors.	High to medium varying seasonally	Spot spraying of non-selective herbicide. Broad scale selective herbicides and insecticides as programmed (seasonal).
Council managed road verges, laneways and walkways	General community	Medium	Spot spraying of non-selective herbicide.

Public places owned or controlled by the council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Golf course operating on land under the care, control and management of North Sydney Council	Golf club members, general public and golf club employees	High	Spot spraying of non-selective herbicide. Broad scale selective herbicides. Spot insecticides Fungicides as programmed (seasonal).
Other outdoor public places associated with Council buildings and community facilities.	General community	High	Some spot spraying of non-selective (Glyphosate). Application of approved low toxic ant and cockroach baits. Spot spraying of approved insecticide for the control of red back spiders. Application of single and multiple dose anticoagulant rodenticides placed in tamper resistant bait stations. Application of termiticides in bait formulations.
Interiors of certain Council facilities (Civic Centre, library, community centres and childcare facilities)	The general public, contractors and Council employees.	High	Application of approved low toxic ant and cockroach baits to cracks and crevices. Spot spraying of approved insecticide for the control of red back spiders. Application of single and multiple dose anticoagulant rodenticides placed in tamper resistant bait stations. Application of Termiticides in bait formulations.

Public places owned or controlled by the council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Swimming pool buildings and grounds	The general public including recreational users, school groups, contractors and Council employees.	High	Some spot spraying of non-selective herbicides.

3.NOTIFICATION

This section of the PUNP describes how and when North Sydney 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 North Sydney Council's consideration of the following parameters within a framework of risk assessment considering probability and consequence of the effect of pesticide application:

- The level of usage and accessibility of public places where pesticides may be used.
- The capacity of Council to control access to public places during pesticide applications.
- The extent to which members of the general public, contractors and Council staff are sensitive to pesticide applications, in particular young, sick, pregnant and elderly people.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided through a communications package including one or more of the following:

- Information on Council's website
- The placement of temporary signs at selected entrances (noting that public signage is subject to removal and vandalism).
- Postage of letters and letterbox drops
- By telephone or email contact.
- Phone contact to primary user of areas
- Social media
- Door knocking

4.NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

Public parks

A list of all sites scheduled for programmed pesticide applications will be advertised on Council's Website approximately 1 week prior to application. In addition, for sensitive areas, temporary signs will be placed at entrances at least 24hrs prior to application and remain on the site for an additional 24hrs afterwards (except for those situations described in 4.4).

Bushland parks and reserves

In these areas notification will vary.

For pesticide treatment in frequently used areas, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated as described above (except for those situations described in 4.4).

For vertebrate pesticides covered by a Pesticide Control Order, notification will be as specified in the relevant Order.

Sporting fields and ovals

A list of all sites scheduled for programmed pesticide applications will be advertised on Council's website approximately 1 week prior to application. In addition, temporary signs will be placed at entrances at least 24hrs prior to application and remain on the site for an additional 24hrs afterwards (except for those situations described in 4.4).

Public land, owned, managed or controlled by North Sydney Council including:

- road verges and reserves
- Malls, Commercial areas and Footpaths
- laneways and pathways
- outdoor public open space associated with Council buildings and community facilities.

Along road verges, laneways and walkways signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit of Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

At outdoor open space associated with Council owned community facilities, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for situations described in 4.4). Additional information will also be available at Council's Customer Service and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit of Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

Golf course operating on land under the care, control and management of North Sydney Council

At this site the method of notification will consider the onsite presence of suitable qualified and environmentally aware staff employed in golf course maintenance and management.

Accordingly, notification signs will be placed at the 1st tee and/or the pro shop at least 24hrs before application and remain in place at least 24hrs after application (except for those situations described in 4.4).

Interiors of public buildings

For interiors of buildings owned or controlled by North Sydney Council such as Council's Civic Centre, library, community centres and childcare facilities. Signage will be placed at the public entrances of facilities at 24hrs prior to a scheduled application and remain in place at least 24hrs after application (except for those situations described in 4.4).

North Sydney Pool buildings and grounds of North Sydney pool.

Signage will be placed at the public entrances of facilities at 24hrs prior to a scheduled application and remain in place at least 24hrs after application (except for those situations described in 4.4).

4.1 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.
- For pesticide (except for those situations described in 4.4) use within 150 metres of sensitive places listed in cl.11J, Council will provide prior notice to that sensitive place by phone, doorknocking or letter drop, depending on what is practicable.

4.2 EMERGENCY PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

In cases where emergency pesticide applications are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests that pose an immediate health hazard or risk to the general public, such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders or rodents, contractors or Council employees,

the risk will be controlled and may involve isolation and restriction of the site. Where practicable, signage and or on-site management will be implemented (with exception of those situations described in 4.4).

Where the above pesticide uses occur within 150m of a sensitive place (refer to 4b) Council will endeavour to notify relevant tenants of the site prior to application.

4.3 CONTRACTORS

Where North Sydney Council engages contractors to perform works, these works will remain consistent with this PUNP.

Persons or organisations holding an existing lease on land owned by North Sydney Council will be required to operate in accordance with this PUNP.

4.4 INSTANCES WHERE COUNCIL WILL NOT GIVE NOTICE OF PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Council will not provide notification in the following public places:

- public places over which persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land. For these places, Council will not provide notification of pesticide use but will request the lessee to carry out notification of the lessee's pesticide use in a manner consistent with this PUNP. Where possible, Council will require lessees, as a condition of their lease, to comply with this PUNP.
- public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is unrelated to the pesticide use
- remote areas where there is no vehicular access and low public visitation.

In addition, Council will not provide notification for the following pesticide uses in any of the public places it controls or owns:

- pesticides used in small quantities and/or readily available at retail outlets to the general public for the control of pests for which they are registered.
 - Example 1: small quantities (less than 20 litres of "ready-to-use" mix) of selected product applied by a hand-held applicator, cut and paint or by injection techniques.
 - Example 2: minor control of indoor and outdoor pest using baits or hand-held aerosols.
 - Example 3: spot spraying under the Councils hard surface weed control contract.
- For vertebrate pesticides covered by a Pesticide Control Order, notification will be as specified in the relevant Order.

5. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 41(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.

6. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PUNP

North Sydney Council will advise residents of this PUNP and its contents by:

- placing a copy of the PUNP on public display, available for viewing, free of charge, during office hours, at its main office at North Sydney Council Chambers 200 Miller Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060
- placing a copy of the PUNP on the Council website at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in the Mosman Daily and North Shore Times
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

7. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PUNP

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years or when circumstances require a review of the PUNP. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the PUNP
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the PUNP
- recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the PUNP

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Title - Manager Parks and Reserves

Address- 200 Miller Street North Sydney

Phone - 9936 8100

Email - council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

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.