



Woollahra Municipal Council

**PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION
PLAN**

2007 – 2012

Adopted November 2006

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 and responsible manner, adhering to the NSW WorkCover Code of practice for the safe use of pesticides in non-agricultural workplaces and the requirements of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation. All council staff and contractors involved with pesticide applications receive regular training specifically focused on the safe use of pesticides in public places.

The plan sets out how Woollahra 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 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 is required to outline all possible pesticide applications that Council may need to utilise over a five year period, and includes contingencies for controlling pests that do not usually occur. It does not represent what Council uses on a daily basis.

The majority of pesticide use by Council consists of applying herbicides for weed control. The frequency of programmed herbicide applications range from 1 to 4 times per year for sports fields, once per year for general park turf surfaces, and 4 times per year for public thoroughfares. Weeds are controlled within garden beds of public parks as required. Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Parks and Street Trees Technical Officer on 9391 7980.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Woollahra Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls within its LGA area boundaries:

- Public parks, gardens, and bushland areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Playground areas within public parks (within fenced playground area or within the confines of the playground soft-fall if not fenced)
- Road verges, nature-strips, footpaths
- Laneways, pathways, roadways, public accessible easements, foreshore paved areas
- Woollahra Golf Course

Woollahra 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. For the purposes of this plan, spot pesticide use refers to small applications using handheld equipment, while broadscale applications typically involve the use of covered boom spray equipment on large open space areas.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide that may be used
a) Public Parks, Gardens, and Bushland Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School groups • Sporting clubs and associations • Fitness and exercise groups • Families with children • Tourists and visitors to the area • General recreational users (e.g. dog-walkers, joggers) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Spot insecticides • Spot turf growth regulators • Broadscale selective herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides • Bait rodenticides
b) Sporting fields and ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting clubs and associations • School sports groups • General recreational users (e.g. dog-walkers, joggers) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Spot insecticides • Spot turf growth regulators • Broadscale selective herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides • Broadscale insecticides • Broadscale turf growth regulators • Spot fungicide • Broadscale fungicide

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide that may be used
c) Playground areas within parks (within fenced playground area or within confines of soft-fall if not fenced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Young Families • General recreational users 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Spot insecticides • Broadscale selective herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides
d) Road verges, Nature-strips, footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents • Tourists and visitors to the area • People who work in the area • Shoppers 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale selective herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides • Spot termiticides
e) Laneways, pathways, roadways, public accessible easements, foreshore paved areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents • People who work in the area • Tourists and visitors to the area 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides • Spot Algicides • Spot turf growth regulators
f) Woollahra Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golfers • Local residents and dog walkers 	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Spot insecticides • Spot turf growth regulators • Spot fungicide • Spot Algicides • Spot nematicides • Broadscale selective herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides • Broadscale insecticides • Broadscale turf growth regulators • Broadscale fungicide • Broadscale nematicides

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Woollahra 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 Woollahra Council's assessment of:

- The visitation rates and trends for the public places where pesticides may be applied
- The likelihood that regular users of the public space may be particularly sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant, or elderly people)
- The possibility of direct contact with pesticides due to the activities commonly undertaken at the various types of public spaces (such as sporting activities involving contact with the ground).
- The type of pesticide used.

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

- Signs
- Notice within a local community newspaper
- Letters
- Fax and email
- Letterbox drops
- Door knocking
- Phone contact

Council will also allow members of the community and organisations to have their details placed on a register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in specific places or circumstances, as described in this section of the plan.

Woollahra Council (or its lessees) uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes. An example of such use is the control of woody weeds in bushland reserves using small quantities of glyphosate herbicide painted onto the cut stems of the plants. Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan. However, operators applying these pesticides will make available general product details at the place and time of application in the event that members of the community require further information.

a) Outdoor Recreation Areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by council within the Woollahra local government area (LGA):

- Public Parks
- Gardens
- Bushland reserves
- Sports fields

In these public places, signs will be provided for the general community near the application area or at the main entrances 24 hours prior to application, and will remain in place for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot turf growth regulators
- Broadscale turf growth regulators
- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Spot insecticides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Spot fungicide
- Broadscale fungicide
- Bait rodenticides

Council conducts an annual broadscale selective herbicide program to control broadleaf weeds within turf areas of parks and sports fields. Additional notice of this pesticide application program will be provided to the general community within a local community newspaper and on council's website at least seven days prior to the first application (first park sprayed).

b) Outdoor playground areas (within fenced playground area or within the confines of the playground soft-fall surface if not fenced)

For playgrounds within Council parks and reserves, signs will be provided at the entrance to the playground 24 hours prior to application and remain in place for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot selective herbicides
- Spot non-selective herbicides
- Spot insecticides

These notification arrangements will also apply to areas where children are commonly known to play. For example, outdoor areas immediately adjacent to the kiosks at Rushcutters Bay Park, Parsley Bay Reserve, and the Tea Gardens at Watsons Bay.

Where playgrounds are located adjacent to sensitive places (as defined in subsection e) the relevant additional notification arrangements will apply.

c) 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 Woollahra LGA:

- Road verges
- Nature-strips
- Footpaths
- Laneways
- Roadways
- Publicly accessible easements
- Foreshore paved areas

In these public places, signs will be provided for the general community at the place and for the duration of application only for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Spot turf growth regulators
- Spot Algicides

Council conducts an annual broadscale non-selective herbicide program to control general weed growth in streets and footpaths within the suburbs of Paddington and Woollahra. Additional notice of this pesticide application program will be provided to the general community within a local community newspaper and on council's website at least seven days prior to the first application.

d) Woollahra Golf Course

Notification of pesticide use within Woollahra Golf Course shall consist of signs placed at the first tee 24 hours prior to application and remain in place until the morning of the day after application for the following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale fungicides
- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Broadscale turf growth regulators

- Broadscale nematicides

In rare cases, an immediate broadscale pesticide treatment of a pest outbreak may be necessary if any delay in application is likely to result in significant losses of turf quality. In this situation, signs will be placed at the first tee at the earliest possible time before the application, and remain in place until the morning of the day after application.

Signs will be displayed only at the place and for the duration of application for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot fungicides
- Spot selective herbicides
- Spot non-selective herbicides
- Spot turf growth regulators
- Spot insecticides
- Spot nematicides
- Spot algaecides

e) 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
- Any other place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water).

Special notification measures will exist for programmed pesticide use in public outdoor areas adjacent to all sensitive places. The occupiers will be provided with 5 days prior targeted notice by phone, email, fax, or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable) for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot turf growth regulators
- Broadscale turf growth regulators
- Broadscale selective herbicides
- Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- Spot insecticides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Spot fungicide
- Broadscale fungicide
- Spot termiticides
- Spot Algicides

f) Notification of 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, display signs at the place and time of the pesticide application. Council will also ensure that the operator applying the pesticide provides verbal notice to the public in the vicinity of the application.

g) 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 a lease on publicly accessible Council land that remains a public place (i.e. Woollahra Golf Course) and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will require community notification of any pesticide application in accordance with the requirements of this plan. In this instance, the notification requirements will be the responsibility of the lessee.

h) Public places where no notice will be provided

Notice will not be provided for the application of termiticides on street trees growing on nature-strips or road verges. This is due to the pesticides being applied in such a way that the risk of exposure to the public is very low. However, Council will ensure that the operator applying the pesticide is able to provide verbal notice to any person requesting it.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticide 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.

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

Woollahra Council will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, in Council's libraries and at the Council offices at 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, NSW 2028.
- Placing a copy of the plan on our website, www.woollahra.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.

- Placing a notice in the *Wentworth Courier* local newspaper
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every five (5) years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. 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.
- The consideration of public submissions and making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Jeffrey Hill
Technical Officer
Open Space and Trees
PO Box 61
Double Bay NSW 1360
Phone: 9391 7980
Fax: 9391 7044
Email: jeff.hill@woollahra.nsw.gov.au
or access Council's website at www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au