

MANLY COUNCIL DRAFT 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). Pesticides are defined as any pest-eradication compound, including insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, baits, bactericides, repellents and rodenticides.

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 Manly Council. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they wish. Manly Council aims to ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible and humane manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

The plan outlines how Manly Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes to public areas. The plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the plan
- Who regularly uses these places and an estimate of the level of use
- How and when Manly Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (ie what notification arrangements will be used, including pesticide uses and circumstances where no notification will be provided)
- 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

Manly Council manages a wide variety of public places from playgrounds, bushland reserves and sporting ovals to facilities such as swimming pools, community halls and libraries. Council has an obligation to manage these areas in a safe manner to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all users and weed and pest control programs are an essential component of this.

Manly Council utilises an integrated approach to pest management, including use of non-chemical pest control options where they are feasible and effective. Council uses pesticides only when necessary to control weeds and pest animals, to protect public property from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger. Whenever possible pesticide application is minimised and programmed to avoid periods of high usage so the community's contact with herbicides is minimised or preferably avoided. This is a particular consideration in public areas such as sporting fields, playgrounds and picnic areas that have a high usage by children and young families. Environmental sensitivity of the area and potential impacts of the pesticides are considered before any pesticide application, and Council aims to manage all natural areas in an environmentally sensitive manner taking into account public safety and protection of public property.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained from by calling Manly Council on 9976 1500 or visiting Council's website at www.manly.nsw.gov.au

2 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Manly Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls within the Manly Council local government area:

- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields and ovals and related sporting facilities
- Bushland reserves
- Public parks and gardens
- Road verges and reserves
- Laneways, pathways and footpaths
- Easements accessible to the public
- Manly Andrew “Boy” Charlton Swim Centre

Although not required by the Regulation, this notification plan will also information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Manly Council buildings: council chambers, libraries, community halls, centres and meeting rooms, childcare facilities.

Manly Council’s estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticides use for each of these public places is summarised in the table below

Public places owned or controlled by Manly Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • young families 	High (particularly in school holidays)	spot herbicides, spot insecticides, spot bactericides, broadscale selective herbicides, termiticides
Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general public • community groups • social groups • children 	High (particularly on weekends, public holidays & school holidays)	spot herbicides, spot insecticides, spot bactericides, broadscale selective herbicides, termiticides
Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities (including Keirle Park skate park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations • general recreational users (eg joggers, walkers, dog-walkers) • school groups 	High (particularly on weekends)	spot herbicides, spot insecticides, broadscale selective herbicides, broadscale non-selective herbicides, broadscale insecticides, fungicides, termiticides, rodenticides, vertebrate pest baiting

Public places owned or controlled by Manly Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Bushland reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general recreational users (eg bushwalkers, joggers, dog-walkers) 	Variable - low to high	spot herbicides, spot insecticides, termiticides, vertebrate pest baiting
Public parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children, young families, elderly people • general recreational users 	Variable – low to high	spot herbicides, spot insecticides, termiticides, broadscale selective herbicides
Road verges and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • general public 	Variable – low to high	spot herbicides, broadscale non-selective herbicides, termiticides, spot insecticides
Council laneways, pathways and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • general public • cyclists 	Variable – low to high	spot herbicides, broadscale non-selective herbicides, termiticides, spot insecticides
Easements accessible to the public (specifically road, sewer, drainage or electricity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • people who work in the area 	Low	spot herbicides, broadscale non-selective herbicides, termiticides, spot insecticides
Manly Andrew “Boy” Charlton Swim Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents and general public • community groups • school groups • children, young families 	High	spot herbicides, broadscale selective herbicides, broadscale non-selective herbicides, termiticides, spot insecticides
Interiors of certain Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young children and their carers • parent groups /playgroups • community associations • general members of the public 	High	spot insecticides, termiticides, rodenticides, bird control

3 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Manly Council, either through its staff or through its contractors, 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 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
- type of pesticide used
- pesticide application techniques (public is unlikely to encounter pesticides with certain application techniques eg cut-and-paint technique and scrap-and-paint technique)

The section of the plan will also describe pesticide uses and circumstances where notification will not be given (as described in section 3b)

a) How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

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

- signage
- information on the Manly Council website (www.manly.nsw.gov.au) about the forward program planned for outdoor public places, including general information about pesticide use
- letters, fax and email
- letterbox drops where required
- door-knocking (this will be done only where required in emergency situations)
- phone contact (this will be done only where required in emergency situations)
- information at Council Chambers during business hours

Pesticide use is subject to suitable conditions (eg weather). To allow for this, signage advising of planned pesticide use may specify a date range for pesticide use.

Council signage is often removed or subject to vandalism. Manly Council will endeavour to replace notification signage removed or vandalised within the notification periods detailed below.

Pesticides uses and circumstances where no notification will be given are described in section 3b.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds will be closed prior to and during the use of any pesticides (except for minor control of insect pests using hand-held aerosols) within the playground area. Council aims to minimise use of all pesticides in and around playgrounds. Except in emergency situations, pesticide use in playgrounds is timed to avoid periods of high use.

For playgrounds notification of pesticide use (except for minor control of insect pests using hand-held aerosols) will be signs placed at the major entrances/s to the playground to be treated.

For any applications of broadscale selective herbicides signage will be placed at the major entrance/s to the playground to be treated up to 3 days prior to application and will be kept in place for at least a week after application.

For any applications of spot herbicides, spot insecticides or termiticides (restricted only to trees located within an enclosed playground area), signage will be in place during application and will remain in place for at least 3 days after application.

Any sensitive places (as defined in section 3c) directly adjoining Council playgrounds will be notified in writing (email, letter or letterbox drop) up to 3 days prior to any broadscale pesticide use in these areas.

Picnic areas

For picnic areas notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be via signage at major entrances to the area to be treated and/or near areas of application.

For any applications of broadscale selective herbicides signage will be placed at the major entrance/s to the picnic areas and/or near areas to be treated up to 3 days prior to application and will be kept in place for at least 3 days after application.

For any applications of spot herbicides, spot insecticides or spot bactericides (except for those situations described in section 3b) notification will be via signage that will be in place during application only. This includes spot spraying herbicides using a backpack sprayer or vehicle mounted spray unit.

Information will be available to the general public on Council's website about the forward program planned for the above applications (updated yearly), including general information about uses of spot herbicides and spot insecticides uses in picnic areas.

Sporting fields and ovals and related sporting facilities

For sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be signs placed at the major entrance/s to the area to be treated and/or near areas of application.

For any applications of broadscale non-selective herbicides, broadscale selective herbicides, broadscale insecticides or fungicides, signage will be in place up to 3 days prior to application and will be kept in place for at least 3 days after application. Where these applications occur on sporting fields that are currently in use for authorised training or competition, the relevant sporting associations by will be notified by email or letter at

least 3 days prior to application. It is then the responsibility of these associations to circulate this information to their members.

For any applications of spot herbicides or spot insecticides (except for those situations described in section 3b) notification will be via signage that will be in place during application only. This includes spot spraying herbicides using a backpack sprayer or vehicle mounted spray unit.

Notification of vertebrate pest control will be as specified in the relevant Pest Control Order (Rural Lands Protection Act 1998).

Any sensitive places (as defined in section 3c) directly adjoining Council sporting fields and ovals will be notified in writing (email, letter or letterbox drop) up to 3 days prior to any broadscale pesticide use in these areas.

Bushland reserves

For bushland reserves notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be by signs placed at major entrances to the area to be treated and/or near areas of application.

For any applications of spot herbicides or spot insecticides (except for those situations described in section 3b) notification will be via signs that will be in place during application only. For pesticide use along walkways or pathways through bushland reserves, signage will be before and after the area to be treated and will remain in place during application only. This includes spot spraying herbicides using a backpack sprayer or vehicle mounted spray unit.

Notification of vertebrate pest control will be as specified in the relevant Pest Control Order (Rural Lands Protection Act 1998).

Public parks and gardens

In public parks and gardens notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be signs placed at major entrances to the area to be treated and/or near areas of application.

For any applications of broadscale selective herbicides signage will be placed at the major entrance/s to the picnic areas and/or near areas to be treated up to 3 days prior to application and will be kept in place for at least 3 days after application.

For any applications of spot herbicides or spot insecticides (except for those situations described in section 3b) notification will be via signage that will be in place during application only. This includes spot spraying herbicides using a backpack sprayer or vehicle mounted spray unit.

Any sensitive places (as defined in section 3c) directly adjoining public parks and gardens will be notified in writing (email, letter or letterbox drop) up to 3 days prior to any broadscale pesticide use in these areas.

Road verges and reserves

For road verges and road reserves notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be signs placed at major entrances to the area to

be treated and/or near areas of application. This signage will be in place during application only.

Any sensitive places (as defined in section 3c) directly adjoining road verges and reserves will be notified in writing (email, letter or letterbox drop) up to 3 days prior to any broadscale pesticide use in these areas.

Laneways, pathways and footpaths

Along public laneways, pathways and footpaths notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be signs placed at major entrances to the area to be treated and/or near areas of application. This signage will be in place during application only.

Any sensitive places (as defined in section 3c) directly adjoining laneways, pathways and footpaths will be notified in writing (email, letter or letterbox drop) up to 3 days prior to any broadscale pesticide use in these areas.

Easements accessible to the public

Along easements accessible to the public notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be signs placed at major entrances to the area to be treated and/or near areas of application. This signage will be in place during application only.

Any sensitive places (as defined in section 3c) directly adjoining easements accessible to the public will be notified in writing (email, letter or letterbox drop) up to 3 days prior to any broadscale pesticide use in these areas.

Manly Andrew “Boy” Charlton Swim Centre

Within the grounds of the Manly Andrew “Boy” Charlton Swim Centre notification of pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) will be by way of signage placed at the entrance to the centre and/or near areas of application.

For any applications of broadscale selective herbicides signage will be placed at the centre entrance and/or near areas to be treated up to 3 days prior to application and will be kept in place for at least 3 days after application. Currently all broadscale herbicide use is undertaken whilst the swim centre is closed for maintenance.

For any applications of spot herbicides or spot insecticides (except for those situations described in section 3b) notification will be via signage that will be in place during application only. This includes spot spraying herbicides using a backpack sprayer or vehicle mounted spray unit.

Interiors of certain Council buildings

For pesticide use (except for those situations described in section 3b) in Council chambers, Council owned libraries, community halls and centres and childcare facilities that are owned or operated by Council notification will be by way of signs provided near the application area or main entrance.

Signage will be in place at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for spot use of insecticides (except for those situations described in section 3b), bait rodenticides, spray termiticides and spray ant control

General information on the use of bait termiticides, bait ant control and bait bird control in the above Council buildings will be posted on Council's website.

In addition 3 days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in Council childcare facilities will be given to the operators of these facilities.

b) Pesticide uses and circumstances where notification will not be provided

Manly 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 Manly Council website). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using hand-held spray bottles.

Specifically, Manly Council will not provide notification for any of the following pesticide uses or circumstances:

- pesticide application via cut and paint, scrape and paint or stem injection application techniques
- spot weed control using hand-held spray bottles containing pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening)
- spraying of non-selective herbicides in isolated areas where there is little likelihood of them being encountered by the public
- minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol cans widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes
- treatment of termite and insect nests in trees on land owned or controlled by Council (except for trees located within enclosed playgrounds), including trees on naturestrips
- any pesticide use in public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is not related to the pesticide use
- notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their property

c) 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)

Special notification measure for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place have already been noted.

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.

d) 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, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information at Manly Council office (ph 9976 1500), or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

e) Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where council contractors apply pesticides in outdoor public places, Council will ensure that the contractor undertake notification in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan. To assist with compliance with this plan, Council will, wherever possible, require contractors as a condition of their contract, to comply with this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on land owned or controlled by Manly Council (excluding road reserves leases) 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. For these places, Council will request the lessee to carry out notification of the lessee's pesticide use in a manner consistent with this plan. To assist with compliance with this plan, Council will wherever possible require lessees as a condition of their lease, to comply with this plan.

4 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE REQUIRED

In accordance in with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, the following information will be available from site signs/notices or by contacting the phone number listed on such signs/notices:

- The full product name of the pesticide as listed on the label
- 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 a 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. Information about programmed pesticide use and general information about Council's pesticide use will be available on Council's website (www.manly.nsw.gov.au)

5 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Copies of the plan will be available for public viewing in Council's offices at 1 Belgrave Street, Manly and also in Council libraries during business hours. The plan can also be downloaded from the Manly Council website (www.manly.nsw.gov.au). Council will also place a notice in The Manly Daily and in the NSW Government Gazette.

6 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years. The review will include:

- A report on the progress of implementing the plan
- Placing the plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes and calling for public submissions
- Recommendation of alterations to the plan (if applicable)

7 CONTACT DETAILS

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

Manly Council
1 Belgrave Street
Manly NSW 2095
Ph (02) 9976 1500
Fax (02) 9976 1400
records@manly.nsw.gov.au