

# PESTICIDE USE

notification plan  
version 1.1



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 1995* (Part 4B - Notification of Proposed Use of Pesticides) and will be referred to as 'the Regulation'.

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are controlled or owned by the Director General of the Department of Lands. This plan covers the activities of all divisions of the Department of Lands (i.e. Crown Lands, Soil Conservation Service etc.) and includes the Minister administering the *Crown Lands Act 1989*. The Department of Lands' Crown Lands Division assists the Director General and the Minister in carrying out their functions with respect to lands managed under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, such as Crown reserves. Throughout this plan, references to 'Lands' should be taken to mean the Department of Lands carrying out functions on behalf of the Director General and the Minister.

The plan helps members of the community to take action to avoid pesticide applications, if they wish.

The plan sets out how Lands 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 Lands 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 Lands' notification arrangements
- contact details for anyone requiring further information about the plan.

Crown land comprises approximately half of all land in New South Wales. Some of this land is allocated to public uses such as national parks, state forests, schools, hospitals, sporting, camping and recreation areas, as well as lands which are managed and protected for their environmental importance. Crown land which is not allocated to public use can be used in a number of ways, including leasing for commercial or agricultural purposes, through to land development and sale.

Lands is responsible for the sustainable and commercial management of Crown land, being the primary administrator for Crown land tenures and unallocated Crown lands, administering an area of approximately 12.7 million hectares. It is responsible for the professional management of some 72,600 licences and permits state wide, along with 14,800 leases.

The Crown reserve system is NSW's oldest and most diverse system of natural areas, cultural sites and open space, providing many of the state's town squares and local parks, state heritage sites, buildings, community halls, nature reserves, coastal lands, waterway corridors, sport grounds, racetracks, showgrounds, caravan parks, camping areas, travelling stock and camping reserves, rest areas, walking tracks, commons, community and government infrastructure and facilities.

Through a network of regional offices, Lands ensures that Crown reserves are responsibly managed and that natural resources such as water, flora and fauna and scenic beauty are conserved, while still encouraging public use and enjoyment of the land. Crown reserves are generally managed by either reserve trust boards, Lands, local councils or state government departments. More than 6,000 volunteers help to care for Crown reserves as members of community trust boards.

The Soil Conservation Service Division operates three branches made up of Soil Works, Soil Consult and Operations. They carry out work through service agreements and tenders on both private (not subject to the plan) and public land that has been allocated by Crown Lands for public use by state government departments or local councils (i.e. Department of Education and Training, Department of Environment and Climate Change, State Water etc.).

Lands uses pesticides 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. Lands pest management programs aim to apply best practice, humane and cost effective methods that will have minimal impacts on the environment. Wherever possible, an integrated approach is adopted which uses a range of techniques.

The majority of pesticide use by Lands consists of applying herbicides (primarily glyphosate based) for weed (noxious and environmental) control. Herbicides applied in various ways are an essential component of most weed control programs undertaken by Lands eg. bush regeneration application techniques such as cutting-and-painting or stem injection of woody weeds, foliar spot-spraying and occasionally aerial spraying.

Biological control is used where effective agents are available, but in most cases biocontrol must be supplemented with conventional control techniques including the use of pesticides. For example, the main method for the control of foxes and wild dogs throughout Australia is poisoning with the pesticide 1080. Baiting is cited consistently in scientific and management literature as the most cost-effective method for the control of foxes and wild dogs, while 1080 is cited as the most target-specific toxin available.

Minor uses also include the application of insecticides to control certain insect pests, termiticides to protect buildings, rodenticides to control rats or mice and bird baits to control birds.

## 2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Lands proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in New South Wales to which the public is entitled to have access.

- Town squares and local parks.
- State heritage sites.
- State parks.
- Buildings and community halls.
- Nature reserves.
- Travelling stock and camping reserves.
- Coastal lands.
- Waterway corridors.
- Sport grounds.
- Racetracks.
- Showgrounds.
- Caravan parks.
- Camping areas.
- Rest areas.
- Walking tracks.
- Commons.
- Community and government infrastructure and facilities.
- Western Division roads.

Lands will provide notification of pesticide use for public places that are under its direct day-to-day management. Notification of pesticide use for those public places managed by others e.g. trust boards, trust managers such as councils and other government departments on behalf of Lands will be provided by those organisations. Where councils and government departments are considered to control public places that are Crown land for the purposes of the Regulation, notification will be provided in accordance with those authorities' notification plans.

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 Lands buildings or throughout such listed facilities being offices, workshops, amenities and/or any other infrastructure owned/maintained by Lands.

Lands' 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 tables (pages 3 & 4).

<b>PUBLIC PLACES</b>	<b>REGULAR USER GROUPS</b>	<b>LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE</b>	<b>TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE</b>
Local parks & town squares	Community members Utilities staff Recreational users Social groups Maintenance workers	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad selective herbicides Broadscale non- selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control products Biological control Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Bait bird control
State heritage sites & state parks Nature reserves Walking tracks	Community members Utilities staff Recreational users Social groups Maintenance workers Horse riders Bushwalkers Birdwatchers School groups	High	Large vertebrate baiting Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad selective herbicides Broadscale non- selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control products Biological control Fungicides Spray ant control Bait bird control Termiticides spray and bait
Community halls & buildings Community and govt. infrastructure and facilities Interiors of Lands buildings	Community members Utilities staff i.e. Telstra Recreational users Social groups Permitted users - licence Sporting clubs School groups Committees and clubs Maintenance workers Employees	High	Large vertebrate baiting Bait termiticides Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Pest animal control products Biological control Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Bait bird control Rodenticides - spray and bait
Coastal lands	Walkers Fishers 4WD Swimmers Maintenance people Joggers Unauthorised camp sites	High	Mainly glyphosate based Both ground spraying and aerial spraying Cut and paint
Waterway corridors	Recreational users Fishers Bushwalkers Community members Horse riders Landholders Graziers Boat clubs and individuals	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control products Biological control Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Bait bird control Large vertebrate baiting
Western Division roads	Landholders Tourists Community members Vehicle drivers	Low to high  (Varies depending on location of road)	As per Rest Area and TSRs

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE
Sports grounds, showgrounds & racetracks	Community members Sports clubs Turf clubs Horse trainers Horse owners – stables Horse organisations & clubs Sideshow operators Permitted users -licence School groups Utilities i.e. Telstra Maintenance workers	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad selective herbicides Broadscale non- selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control products Biological control Fungicides Spray ant control Bait bird control Large vertebrate baiting Bait termiticides Rodenticides
Caravan parks & camping areas	Caravan owners Tourists Campers Community members Recreational users Maintenance workers Permitted users -licence School groups Clubs i.e. fishers, bikers	Low to high  (varies depending on season or holiday periods)	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad selective herbicides Broadscale non- selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control products Biological control Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Bait bird control Large vertebrate baiting Bait and spray termiticides Rodenticides – bait and spray Bait and spray termiticides
Rest areas  Travelling Stock and Camping Reserves	Community members Recreational users Vehicle drivers Landholders - grazing	Medium	Large vertebrate baiting Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad selective herbicides Broadscale non- selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control products Biological control Fungicides Spray and bait ant control Bait bird control
Commons	Commoners Community members Recreational users	High	Large vertebrate baiting Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad selective herbicides Broadscale non- selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Pest animal control Poison Biological control Fungicides Spray ant control Bait bird control Termiticides – bait and spray

### 3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Lands (either through its staff, contractors or managers) 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 Lands' assessment that:

- some areas have high visitor use (e.g. picnic areas and camp grounds in areas visited frequently, popular reserves close to urban areas) and other areas are rarely visited by the public (e.g. nature reserves in remote areas)
- some visitors may be more sensitive to pesticides than others
- some visitors may be more likely than others to encounter pesticides e.g. campers vs. passing motorists
- for some application techniques, the public is unlikely to encounter pesticides e.g. bush regeneration programs using the cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques
- the toxicity of pesticides varies.

#### a. How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Notice of pesticide use will be provided in one or more of the following ways.

- The placement of signs.
- Postage of letters and letterbox drops.
- Through the media.
- By telephone, fax, email or personal contact.

Due to the large number of sites managed and administered by Lands, the range of potential pest species and the range of pesticides available for their control, it is not possible for all detailed uses of pesticides to be specified in this plan. Thus, it is important that visitors who wish to avoid places where pesticides have been used recently, contact the site manager and ask for details.

In large or unfenced areas where control operations are to be undertaken, signs will be strategically placed in the area of application (treated area) as described in this plan. At smaller or fenced (enclosed) areas a sign will be placed at major entrances to the area. Where the pesticide label does not stipulate a withholding/re-entry period restriction, the pesticide application notification sign may be restricted to the operating vehicle only during the application of the pesticide. Additional pesticide information (if requested) will be available from either the local Lands office or site manager, with the relevant contact number being provided on the sign for the office responsible for the pesticide application.

Where signs are used, they will be erected immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed (unless the pesticide label or permit requires a longer period of signage). Where foliar spraying occurs signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried. Where required, any designated withholding period (WHP) on the pesticide label will be followed. In certain circumstances (low risk areas or where very small quantities of pesticide treatment occurs) notification may not be given and these are described in Section 3e.

For vertebrate pesticides, notification will be as specified in the relevant Pesticide Control Order, unless the Order does not specify all of the information required by the *Pesticides Regulation 1995*.

For smaller, target specific spot-spraying programs in areas frequently used, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated. Additional pesticide information (if requested) will be available from either the local Lands office or site manager, with the relevant contact number being provided on the sign for the office responsible for the pesticide application. Signs will be erected immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the pesticide has dried (unless the pesticide label or permit requires a longer period of signage).

For spot-spraying areas that are used infrequently, signs will be restricted to the operating vehicle only. Additional pesticide information (if requested) will be available from either the local Lands office or site manager, with the relevant contact number being provided on the sign for the office responsible for the pesticide application. In certain circumstances notification will not be given and these are described in Section 3e.

When using insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, termiticides or bird-baits around Lands owned or managed infrastructure such as office buildings, workshops and

storage sheds, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area being treated. Additional pesticide information (if requested) will be available from either the local Lands office or site manager, with the relevant contact number being provided on the sign for the office responsible for the pesticide application. Signs will be erected immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the pesticide has dried (unless the pesticide label or permit requires a longer period of signage). Where foliar spraying occurs signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

Situations where no notification will be given are described in Section 3e.

### **b. Special measures for sensitive places**

Clause 11J(1) of the *Pesticides Regulation 1995* defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home
- declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation).

For pesticide use within 150m of sensitive places listed in clause 11J, Lands will provide prior or concurrent notice to that sensitive place by phone, door-knocking or letterbox drop, based on prior arrangement with the sensitive place or when no prior arrangement exists depending on which is most practicable.

### **c. 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), signs will be placed onsite (with the exception of those situations described in Section 3e). Additional information will also be available from the local Lands office, site manager or via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be erected immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pest Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

Where broad-scale spraying is required at short notice (e.g. locust control) and public notification is not possible, special precautions will be taken to prevent the public encountering pesticides e.g. closure of camping grounds or walking tracks.

### **d. Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places**

To assist in its compliance with this plan, where Lands uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf it will require a written commitment that they will use signs, letters, letterbox drops etc. according to the notification requirements of this plan. Lands will require contractors, as a condition of their contract, to comply with this plan.

To assist in its compliance with this plan, where persons or organisations hold an existing lease or other tenure on Crown land that remains a public place, Lands will encourage a written commitment that they will use signs, letters, letterbox drops etc. according to the notification requirements of this plan. Upon tenure renewal, Lands will require tenure holders and managers, as a condition of their contract, to comply with this plan.

### **e. Public places where no notice will be provided by the department**

Lands will not provide notification in any of the following public places.

- Public places managed by a trust, another government agency or local council. For these places, Lands will not provide notification of pesticide use, but will encourage those organisations to carry out notification of pesticide use in a manner consistent with this plan, unless the public authority is considered to control a public place that is Crown land for the purposes of clauses 11K(1) and 11L(1) of the *Pesticides Regulation 1995*, in which case notification will be in accordance with that authority's pesticide notification plan.
- Public places over which persons or organisations hold an existing lease or licence on Crown land. For these places, Lands 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 plan. Where possible, Lands will require lessees, as a condition of their lease, to comply with this plan.
- Public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is unrelated to the pesticide use.



- Remote areas where there is little likelihood of pesticides being encountered by the public e.g. areas of no vehicular access and low public visitation.

In addition, Lands will not provide notification for the following pesticide use in any of the public places it controls or owns.

- Pesticides used in small quantities and 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' spray mix) of glyphosate and metsulfuron herbicides applied by a hand-held applicator, or by cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques.
- Example 2** Minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using baits or hand-held aerosols.

## 4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the *Pesticides Regulation 1995*, notice of pesticide use will include the following information and will be available from site signs/notices or by contacting the phone number listed on such signs/notices and from the local Lands office or site manager.

- The full product name of the pesticide to be used.
- The purpose of the use, clearly stating what pest or pests are being treated.
- The proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use.
- The places where the pesticide is to be used.
- Contact telephone number and email address of the Lands officer or manager who people can contact to discuss the notice.
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA<sup>1</sup> permit.

In all cases, the spray-operator will be able to provide this information.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Lands will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at the Department of Lands, Level 2, 437 Hunter St, Newcastle NSW 2300 and all district offices
- placing a copy of the plan on its website, [www.lands.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au)
- placing a notice in the Sydney Morning Herald
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

## 6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every five years from gazettal, or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

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

## 7. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact the Department of Lands to discuss the notification plan should contact:

### Manager Landscape Services Centre

PO Box 865  
Dubbo NSW 2830

**Ph:** (02) 6883 3314

**Fax:** (02) 6882 6954

**Email:** [landscapeservicescentre@lands.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landscapeservicescentre@lands.nsw.gov.au)

or access the website [www.lands.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au)

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