

Draft Generic RENWA Pesticide Use Notification Plan

TEMORA



NSW
Riverina

DEFINITION: Pesticides: any chemical or biological agent that kills plant or animal pests. Includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides.

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 Temora Shire Council. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides.

Council aims to ensure that 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 by Council to public places.

The plan describes:

- Which 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.
- Who will apply the pesticide?

This plan will also outline the circumstances under which notification **WILL NOT** be given.

Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate weeds, to protect public property 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 applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of programmed applications range from 2- 3 per year for sports fields, 2–5 times per year for parks and gardens and up to twice yearly for public thoroughfares. Insecticides are used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodenticides. Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Councils Weed Control Officer on 0427 487139 or Council Parks and Gardens Supervisor on 0427 181 605.

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2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places within this Council's local government area:

- Parks and public gardens
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Road verges and reserves
- Laneways and pathways
- Easements accessible to the public
- Drains

This plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following council buildings: Council chambers, libraries, community halls/centres and childcare facilities.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarised in the following table. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

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Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
a) Public parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young families • elderly people • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers). 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective Herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • broad scale insecticides • fungicide (garden beds) • spray termiticides, ant control
b) Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • young families 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • spray ant control • bait ant control

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
c) Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • families • other social groups • clubs 	High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • broad scale insecticides • fungicide (garden beds) • spray termiticides, ant control

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d) Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations • school sports groups • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers) 	<p style="text-align: center;">High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale selective Herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides • broad scale insecticides • fungicide (garden beds) • spray termiticides, ant control
e) Council laneways and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • people who work in the area • visitors to the area 	<p style="text-align: center;">Medium to high</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides
f) Road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road 	<p style="text-align: center;">Low for rural roads; Medium to high for urban roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides
g) Easements accessible to the public (specifically road, sewer or electricity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents and people who work in the area 	<p style="text-align: center;">Low to medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides
h) Council drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents living adjacent to a drain. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Low to medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale non-selective herbicides

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i) Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
j) Interiors of certain Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly) • young children and their carers (childcare facilities) • parents groups/playgroups • community Associations • church groups • general members of the public 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot insecticides • spray termiticides • spray ant control • bait ant control

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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)
- Type of pesticide used.

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

- Signs
- Local newspaper advertisements
- Letters
- Letterbox drops
- Door knocking
- Phone contact.

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register (Attachment C: Register of Pesticide-Sensitive Persons and Pesticide Sensitive Areas) which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan (See Attachment A: Application for registration of Pesticide-Sensitive Persons).

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. This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray bottle.

No notification will be given if the public place is closed to the public e.g. swimming pool outside of swimming season.

Where council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

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a) Outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council.

- Public parks and gardens
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities.

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)
- Spray termiticides and ant control

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places', under subsection d) Special measures for sensitive places) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

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 use by phone at least 48 hours prior to application (See Attachment B: Application for Registration of Pesticide-Sensitive Area).

b) 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 within the LGA:

- Laneways and pathways
- Road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths
- Road and sewer easements accessible to the public
- Drains.

In these public places, information on the forward program for broad scale herbicide will be advertised 1 month prior to application.

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For **drains** and **laneways** only, information on the forward program for use of herbicides will also be included in Council's advertisements in local newspapers.

c) Certain Council buildings

For pesticide use in Council chambers, Council owned libraries, community halls and centres and 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 pesticide uses:

- Spot use of insecticides
- Bait rodenticides
- Spray termiticides
- Spray ant control.

In addition, 5 days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in Council childcare facilities will be given to operators of the facilities.

d) 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, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

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, 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 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.

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e) 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 the application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information via its Council info line (02) 6980 1100, or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

f) 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 still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

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 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.

The relevant details will be publicised by inclusions in Council's regular Newsletters as well as advertisements in local newspapers.

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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 during office hours
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at www.temora.nsw.gov.au.
- Placing a notice in (Local Newspaper/ Papers
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette
- Including a leaflet in the annual rates notice advising residents of the plan and where they can view a copy of it.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years. 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
- In the light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of specific details of pesticide applications in public places should contact: Councils Weed Control Officer on 0427 487139 or Council Parks and Gardens Supervisor on 0427 181 605.

ATTACHMENT A



APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF PESTICIDE-SENSITIVE PERSONS

To be registered with Temora Shire Council as a pesticide-sensitive individual, complete this application form. This application form is used to determine whether you qualify to be registered. You have the right to inspect, amend or correct the application you submit. All of the information in this application, is a matter of public record. Your name, address(s), and phone number(s) will be shared with pesticide applicators so that they may notify you before making a pesticide application on property abutting yours.

I hereby request to be placed on the list of pesticide-sensitive individuals.
PLEASE PRINT

NAME

RESIDENCE ADDRESS

.....

TOWN.....

DAYTIME PHONE

EVENING PHONE

.....

AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

.....

DECLARATION OF PERSON(S)

I request that the individual named above should be placed on the list of pesticide-sensitive individuals for the following reason/s

REASON/S

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ATTACHMENT B



**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF
PESTICIDE-SENSITIVE AREA**

To be registered as a pesticide sensitive area your organization must complete this form.

This application form is used to determine whether you qualify to be registered. You have the right to amend or correct the application you submit. All the information in this application is a matter of public record. Your name, address and phone numbers will be shared with persons used by Council to apply pesticides so they may contact you when necessary.

I hereby wish to register the following site as a Pesticide Sensitive Area.

Name of Person Completing Form

.....

Address of Sensitive Area

.....

Reasons for Registering Site.....

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