

Pesticide use notification plan

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[Appendix A - Sample pesticide notification notice](#)

Definition

Under the NSW Pesticides Act 1999, a pesticide is an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Commonwealth), namely:

A substance or mixture of substances that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:

- Destroying, stupefying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by or attacks of, any pest in relation to a plant, a place or a thing; or
- Destroying a plant; or
- Modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or
- Modifying an effect of another agricultural chemical product; or
- Attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.

What are some of the different types of pesticides?

Some families or groups of chemical products which are considered pesticides under current NSW legislation are:

Bactericides - These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of bacteria.

These are ready-prepared products or products which need to be mixed with a food to control a pest.

Fungicides - These control, destroy, render ineffective or regulate the effect of a fungus.

Genetically Modified Organisms –

Agricultural crops can be genetically modified to incorporate resistance to pests and diseases, herbicide tolerance, or to slow the ripening of fruit or alter the timing and duration of flower production.

Herbicides - These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of a weed or other unwanted vegetation.

Insecticides - These destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by an insect.

Lures - These are chemicals that attract a pest to a pesticide for the purpose of its destruction. Solely food-based lures.

Rodenticides - These are pesticides used specifically for controlling rodents such as mice and rats.

Repellents - These repel rather than destroy a pest. Included in this category are personal insect repellents used to repel biting insects.

1 Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017. The plan sets out how Snowy Monaro Regional Council will notify members of the community of any pesticide applications that it makes or allows to be made to the public places it owns or controls.

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, 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:

- 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.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. A small proportion of pesticide is used to control vertebrate pest animals and other irregular applications. Frequency of programmed applications range from 2-6 times per year for sports fields, 2-6 times per year for parks and gardens and 2-3 yearly passes for public thoroughfares. Insecticides are used for the control of insects in buildings and other structures and on sporting grounds. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by contacting Snowy Monaro Regional Council on 1300 345 345 or www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

2 Public Places covered by this plan

Snowy Monaro Regional Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of public places that it owns or controls:

2.1 Outdoor public places

- Outdoor public thoroughfares and easements accessible to the public
- Sporting fields, ovals & sporting facilities
- Other outdoor places owned or controlled by Snowy Monaro Regional Council, including:
 - Undeveloped reserves, including vacant Crown lands
 - Showgrounds and ovals
 - Camping grounds
 - Cemeteries
 - Landfills and waster transfer stations
 - Airstrips
 - Sale yards
 - Rural fire service stations
 - Water and wastewater facilities
 - Council depots and operational lands
 - Public parks, gardens, playgrounds, skate parks and picnic areas

2.2 Council buildings and leased properties

- Community halls
- Libraries
- Council offices and depot buildings
- Visitors Centers
- Aged Care facilities
- Child Care facilities
- Public Toilets
- Caravan parks
- Swimming pools

2.3 Residential complexes

- Caravan parks with long term (>8 weeks) residencies
- Aged care and social housing facilities

Table 1: Snowy Monaro Regional 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.

Public Places	Regular User Groups	Level of use of public place	Pesticide Application Methods/Type of pesticide Use
Thoroughfares and easements accessible to the public (e.g. roads, lanes, water, sewer, drains, pathways, lake and river foreshore areas)	Local residents and people who work in the area Local residents living adjacent to a drain Recreational users Fishermen Families Joggers Picnickers	Low to medium	Spot herbicides Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides Insecticides Rabbit control Insect control eg Ants, European Wasps
Sporting fields, ovals and sporting facilities	Sporting clubs and associations School sports groups General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers)	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Spray or bait termiticides Rodenticides near facilities Bait rabbit control
Undeveloped Reserves	General recreation users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers mountain bike riders).	Low to medium, multiple users, with short to medium length stays) mainly on weekends	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Spray termiticides, wasps & ant control Bait termiticides, ant control Bait rabbit, fox, feral pig, bird control

Public Parks, Gardens, Playgrounds, Skate parks & Picnic areas	Children Families Social groups General recreational users (joggers, dog walkers, picnickers) Elderly people Religious groups School groups Sporting groups	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides Fungicide (usually garden beds) Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides Bait ant & wasp control Bait rabbit/ bird control
Council's Operational Lands	Visitors of all age groups Council Staff Contractors	Low to medium	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides Fungicide (usually garden beds) Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides, Bait ant & wasp control Bait rabbit/ bird control
Cemeteries, landfill, transfer stations and airstrips	Visitors Local residents	Low to medium	Spot herbicide Rabbit control Wasp control
Crown Land	Local residents Recreational users	Low	Spot herbicide Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides
Council buildings, swimming pools, caravan parks and leased premises	Local residents Council employees Childcare & playgroups/ parent groups Sporting groups Community associations School groups General members of the public	High	Spot insecticides Spot herbicides Bait rodenticides Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides Bait ant control Bait bird control Wasp & insect control Vertebrate pest control

Residential complexes	Complexes exceeding 2 dwellings caravan parks with long term (>8wks) residencies	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides Fungicide (usually garden beds) Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides, Bait ant & wasp control Bait rabbit/ bird 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, including special measures for sensitive places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

3.1 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

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)
- the type of pesticide used

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

- signs erected at entrances to treatment areas
- information on Council's website
- newspaper advertisements
- personal contact with primary users of areas.

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan.

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the outdoor public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA) as detailed in Table 1.

3.1.1 Outdoor public thoroughfares and easements accessible to the public

In these public places, information on Council's pesticide use program will be advertised at least annually within local newspapers. Regular updates will be posted on Council's website advising of Council's routine activities in relation to pesticide use. Signage may be erected where high risk sites are identified.

3.1.2 Sporting fields, ovals, sporting facilities, public parks, gardens, playgrounds, skate parks & picnic areas

In these public places, notification will be given on Council's website and/or in a local newspaper that circulates generally within the LGA. Signage will also be erected at main entries to treatment sites to advise of pesticide use. Notification, including signage will be given at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for the duration of any relevant reentry or withholding period as stipulated on the product label, or for a minimum period of 48 hours irrespective.

Sporting group organizers, other known high volume user groups and occupiers of adjacent sensitive places who register interest with Council shall be personally contacted by telephone, email or other recognized forms of media.

3.1.3 Other outdoor public places

In these public places, notification will be given on Council's website and/or in a local newspaper that circulates generally within the LGA. Signage will also be erected at main entries to the treatment site and will remain for the duration of any relevant reentry or withholding period, or for a minimum period of 48 hours irrespective.

3.1.4 Council buildings, swimming pools, caravan parks and leased premises

In these public places, notification will be given on Council's website and/or in a local newspaper that circulates generally within the LGA. Signage will also be erected at main entries to treatment sites to advise of pesticide use. Notification, including signage will be given at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for the duration of any relevant reentry or withholding period as stipulated on the product label, or for a minimum period of 48 hours irrespective.

Lessees, residents and other known high volume users shall be personally contacted by telephone, email or other recognized forms of media.

3.1.5 Residential complexes

Notification will be given to each resident in person or by telephone, post, facsimile transmission or email or by placing the notice in the resident's letter box or under the resident's front door. Alternatively, signage may be made available on the main notice board (if available) and at each entrance to a building if applied within, or adjacent to the building.

3.2 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 18 of the Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre,
- Hospital, community health centre or nursing home
- Place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority.

Prior to undertaking any pesticide use on a public area adjacent (less than 20m) to a sensitive place Council must notify the person or organisation by way of a nominated method.

Notification must be given at least 5 working days prior to application in accordance with Section 48 of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* and as outlined in this plan.

Additional sensitive places may also be nominated by the Community upon written application to Council. Applications from individuals and organisations must include a contact name, address and nominate a preferred method of notification. Applicants may also be required to

demonstrate to Council that a proposed pesticide application is likely to have an adverse impact on their health or enterprise.

3.3 Notification of emergency pesticide applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with biting, dangerous or plague 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 erecting signage at the time of application or shortly thereafter, and by notifying the community via Council's website and/or Facebook page.

3.4 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Snowy Monaro Regional 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 not give notice of pesticide use on behalf of those persons or organisations.

In public areas where multiple agencies have responsibility for pesticide application on their land, and where there are no physically defined boundaries, where Council is undertaking the pesticide application it will follow this Pesticide Notification Plan unless it is operating under contract to another authority. This will include incidental applications in areas that are controlled by other authorities.

3.5 Instances where Council will not give notice of pesticide application

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 provide notice of 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 backpack/hand-held spray bottle with a pesticide identified by the signal words WARNING or CAUTION.

3.6 Signage Notification

Notice of pesticide use will be given by way of signage in accordance with this plan. Information will be provided in accordance with clause 41(1)(h) of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*.

Signage used to inform the community of pesticide use on a public place must use the Snowy Monaro Regional Council's Pesticide Use Notification Form as shown in this plan (Appendix A).

Signage will be placed at major entrances to public places. Signage must remain in situ for the duration of any relevant reentry or withholding period as stipulated on the product label, or for a minimum period of 48 hours irrespective.

3.7 Additional public notification for restricted pesticide uses

Pesticides used to control vertebrate pests often require the use of ready prepared baits. Some baits contain "restricted pesticides" (i.e sodium monofluoroacetate or 1080) declared in

Schedule 4 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulations 1995. Pesticide Control Orders and Conditions of Use apply to restricted pesticides.

The notification requirements of this plan will be provided in addition to the public notification requirements stipulated by the conditions of use that applies to the restricted pesticide products, except where duplication in signage may exist.

3.8 What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 41(1)(h) of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*, notice of pesticide uses will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used,
- the purpose for which the pesticide is to be used,
- 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 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 relevant minor-use permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public. Council's website will have a dedicated area that describes its pesticide use activities and a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address <http://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au> will be publicised in rate notices and by regular inclusions in Council's weekly block newspaper advertisement in local newspapers and any information provided on social media sites.

4 How the community will be informed of this plan

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

- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

5 Future reviews of the plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years. If Council deems the amendment to be of sufficient substance to warrant public consultation the following steps will be taken:

- Advise the public of the reviewed plan in The Monaro Post, which circulates generally throughout the Snowy Monaro region.
- Place the plan on public exhibition for at least 4 weeks after the notice is published.
- Place the plan on public exhibition in the Council offices and on Council's official website calling for submissions.
- In the light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.
- On finalisation of the plan notice will be given in writing to the Environmental Protection Agency and in a newspaper which circulates generally throughout the Snowy Monaro region.

6 Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain specific details of

pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Phone: 1300 345 345

Email: council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Appendix A



Full Name of Pesticide Product (s)

Purpose for Pesticides Use

Proposed Dates for Treatment Between ____/____/____ and ____/____/____

Place of Treatment

Warnings Regarding Re-entry or Use of the Area Refer to Chemical Labels and MSDS or contact the nominated contact officer shown below

Nominated Contact Officer

Contact Telephone Number

Contact Email Address Council@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au

Date of Notice

