

Pesticide Use Notification Plan Question & Answers

Why do we have this policy?

The aim of this Plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to public places. The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides.

What is a pesticide?

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances used to destroy, suppress or alter the life cycle of any pest. These include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides & rodenticides.

How will the pesticide be applied?

Council endeavours to select pesticides and methods of application that meet best practice industry standards. In particular, selecting approved, registered pesticides with low toxicity and proven efficacy for the target pest. All pesticide use by Council shall be strictly in accordance with manufacture's directions, as prescribed on product labels and associated Material Safety Data Sheets. Council will ensure that only staff with nationally recognised training, in chemical use will apply pesticides within public places.

How will notification be given?

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by any individual or combination of the following; Signs, Letters, Fax, email, Letterbox drops, Door knocking, Phone contact, Newspapers, radio, Website or through Council Employees.

Attachment 1. Shows an example of information that will be provide as part of the notification process.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided for in Public Areas

- Public parks and gardens
- Shared paths
- Tourist park, community centre & swimming pool grounds
- Playgrounds & BBQ areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Sporting facilities eg. courts, skate and bike facilities
- Bush reserves
- Coastal dune areas & foreshore areas
- Cemeteries

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance to the site immediately prior to application and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide may be uses:

- ❖ Direct application herbicides
- ❖ Spot herbicides
- ❖ Spot insecticides
- ❖ Broadscale selective herbicides
- ❖ Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- ❖ Broadscale insecticide
- ❖ Fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)

- ❖ Spray & bait termiticides on facilities and trees
- ❖ Spray & bait insecticides on or near facilities
- ❖ Rodenticides on or near facilities

If a spray vehicle is used, an additional sign will be attached to the vehicle.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided in outdoor public thoroughfares, easements & special facilities accessible to the public?

- Road shoulders, verges and road reserves
- Laneways and pathways
- Waste management centres & landfills
- Malls and commercial areas
- Drains and waterways
- Water supply catchments

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance to the site. Spraying of road shoulders, verges and road reserves shall occur at no more than 2 km from the sign or shall be mounted onto a shadow vehicle when one is in use.

Signs shall be installed immediately prior to application and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- ❖ Spot herbicides
- ❖ Broadscale selective herbicides
- ❖ Broadscale non-selective herbicides
- ❖ Spray & bait termiticides on facilities and trees
- ❖ Spray & bait insecticides on or near facilities
- ❖ Rodenticides

If a spray vehicle is used, an additional sign will be attached to the vehicle.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided in Interiors of Council buildings!

For the interior of buildings owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance 1 day prior to application and will remain in place for at least 1 day or as per product label requirements for the following pesticide uses:

- ❖ Spot insecticides
- ❖ Broadscale insecticide
- ❖ Spray & bait termiticides
- ❖ Spray & bait insecticide
- ❖ Rodenticide

Where any of the above pesticides applications occur within or adjacent to sensitive places (see definition) the occupiers will be provided with at least 48 hours notice prior to targeted application.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided for Sensitive Places!

- 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 (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation).

Where any of the above pesticides applications occur within or adjacent to sensitive places (see definition) the occupiers will be provided with at least 48 hours notice prior to targeted application. 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, immediately prior to application.

Notification for Baits to Control Vertebrate Pests

Poison baits used for vertebrate pest control are generally classified as restricted pesticides and have special requirements for public notification. Notification for poison baits to control vertebrate pests, vary according to the product used. This may include requirements to notify adjacent property owners in writing or broader community notification by providing information to media agencies such as local newspapers or radio. Signage may be required to be installed well in advance and remain for several weeks after treatments. For vertebrate pest baiting, Council shall comply with specific notification requirements detailed on the product label or as advised by either the Rural Lands Protection Board or the Environmental Protection Authority.

What if I have a Chemical Allergies & Hypersensitivity !

Persons diagnosed with Chemical Allergies, Hypersensitivity to Chemicals or Immunodeficiency Illnesses can register interest with Council. Registered interested parties will be provided with at least 48 hours notice where pesticide use occurs adjacent to the occupancy of that person prior to targeted application. Notification will be provided by whichever means is most practicable to that situation. This will allow the interested party to avoid exposure to the pesticide use. Council will ensure that the notice is received by the interested party prior to commencement.

Emergency Pesticide Applications take place when!

In cases where emergency pesticide applications are required, to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, fleas and venomous spiders. Or where pest animals or insects are or may cause significant damage to Council assets; Council will erect signs near the application area or main entrance immediately prior to application and will remain in place until the application has been completed or as per product label requirements, for the following pesticide uses:

- Low or high volume spraying of insecticides

A sign will also be attached to the spray vehicle during operations.

Times in which No Notice Will Be Provided!

Where Council staff or any persons guided or directed by Council use a small quantity of pesticide that is 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 the plan providing that all of the following conditions can be met:

- The pesticide is ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening),
- It is widely available to the general public at retail outlets (e.g. supermarkets or hardware stores),
- The pesticide is applied by hand or a hand held applicator,
- In the case of outdoor use, no more than 20 litres or 20 kilograms of "ready to use" product, or 5 kilograms of concentrate product is used,
- In the case of indoor use, you use no more than 5 litres or 5 kilograms of "ready to use" product, or 1 litre or 1 kilograms of concentrate product.

GLOSSARY

Algicides – These are pesticides used specifically for controlling algae blooms, for example in waterways.

Bactericides – These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of bacteria. Examples are swimming pool chemicals containing chlorine and products used to control black spot (bacterial blight) on garden plants or in orchards. Disinfectants for household and industrial use are excluded and are not considered pesticides.

Baits – These are ready-prepared products or products which need to be mixed with a food to control a pest. This category includes baits for insects, such as cockroaches and ants.

Direct application – Method of applying concentrated liquid immediately onto target, for example cut and paint technique whereby concentrated herbicide is directly painted onto the cut stump of a plant, or drill and fill technique whereby holes are drilled in woody stump and filled with a small volume of concentrated herbicide.

Fungicides – These control, destroy, render ineffective or regulate the effect of a fungus, for example, fungicides are used to treat grey mould on grape vines and fruit trees.

Herbicides – These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of a weed or other unwanted vegetation, for example, the herbicide glyphosate is used to control a range of weeds in home gardens, bushland and agricultural situations.

High volume spraying – Method of applying a high volume of a liquid through the use of motorised mechanical pump.

Insecticides – these destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by, an insect. Insecticides are used to control a wide variety of insect pests, including thrips, aphids, moths, fruit flies and locusts. In NSW, pesticides include products such as flea powders and liquids used externally on animals. Injections or other medicines administered internally to treat animals are veterinary medicines and are excluded.

Low volume spraying – Method of applying a low volume of a liquid using a hand pump applicator.

Lures – These are chemicals that attract a pest to a pesticide for the purpose of its destruction. Solely food-based lures, for example cheese in a mousetrap, are excluded and are not considered pesticides.

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.

Sensitive place – school or pre-school, kindergarten, childcare centre, hospital, community health centre, nursing homes, or any additional place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation), as declared under clause 11J (1) of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 NSW.

Termiticides – These are pesticides used specifically for controlling termites, which may be applied as a spray or deployed as bait.

Attachment 1. Shows an example of information that will be provide as part of the notification process.



The image shows a notification sign template with a blue background and yellow text. At the top left is the Wyong Shire Council logo, and at the top right is the Central Coast logo. Below the logos is a yellow diamond-shaped warning sign with a black exclamation mark. To the right of the sign, the text 'PESTICIDE APPLICATION in PROGRESS' is written in white. Below this, there are seven yellow rectangular boxes for input, each preceded by a white label: 'Pesticide Used - Trade Name', 'Weed / Pest Treated', 'Location of Pesticide Application', 'Date & Time Applied', 'Precautionary Statement', and 'Enquiries Please Contact'.

 **WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL**





**PESTICIDE
APPLICATION
in PROGRESS**

Pesticide Used - Trade Name

Weed / Pest Treated

Location of Pesticide Application

Date & Time Applied

Precautionary Statement

Enquiries Please Contact