



Pesticide Use Notification Plan

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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 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, minimizing harm to the community or the environment.

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 the plan with Council.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

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

- ◆ public parks and gardens
- ◆ playgrounds and sporting fields
- ◆ swimming pool
- ◆ road verges and footpaths
- ◆ Council drains
- ◆ Waste disposal sites

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarized in the following table.

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use
a) Public Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ children and young families ◆ elderly people ◆ general recreational users (e.g. dog-walkers, joggers, picnickers) 	Medium - High
b) Playgrounds and Sporting Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ School sports groups ◆ Children ◆ Sporting clubs ◆ General recreational use 	High
c) Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Local residents and visitors ◆ Swimming clubs ◆ School groups ◆ Swimming classes 	High-very high in Summer. Nil use in Winter
d) Road shoulders, verges, lanes and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road 	Medium-high for urban roads. Low for rural roads
e) Council Drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Local residents living adjacent to a drain ◆ Local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain 	Low
f) Waste disposal sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Local residents 	Med-high

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Oberon Council will provide notice of planned pesticide use in public places. The planned notification is based on Oberon 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 particular areas regularly
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to direct contact with pesticides (such as sporting activities or picnic areas where food is consumed; activities that result in contact with the ground)
- type of pesticide used.

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

- signs
- letters (sensitive areas and emergency applications)
- responding to all reasonable requests for information

3. a Outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA):

- ◆ public parks and gardens
- ◆ playgrounds and sporting fields
- ◆ swimming pool grounds

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 all pesticide uses other than broadscale selective herbicides (glyphosate type products).

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places', under section c) 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).

3. b Road shoulders, verges, lanes and footpaths

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following categories of public places owned or controlled by Council within the LGA.

- ◆ road shoulders, verges, laneways and footpaths
- ◆ road, sewer and water easements accessible to the public
- ◆ drains

A letterbox drop of adjacent properties will occur at least 48 hours before the expected date or dates of application of any pesticide other than broadscale selective herbicides (glyphosate type products).

Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, adjacent to sensitive places, notification, by way of appropriate signs will occur at least 48 hours beforehand.

3. c Special measures for pesticide application adjacent to 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 Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)

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.

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 organize 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.

3. d Circumstances where no notification will be provided

Council does not intend to notify of proposed pesticide use in the following circumstances:

- Rural roads,
- verges and drains
- interior of Council buildings
- waste disposal sites
- water and sewerage treatment works

- urban areas where broadscale selective herbicides are to be used (except adjacent to sensitive places).

3. e Pesticide contractors

Where Oberon Council engages contractors to apply pesticides on Council's behalf, the notification arrangements set out in this Pesticide Use Notification Plan shall be followed by the contractor. In addition, Council will ensure that the contractor has the appropriate chemical training qualification and that the required chemical application records are completed and made available after each job.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L (2) (g) of the Pesticide 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 pesticide product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognizable to the public and to workers.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED

Oberon Council will take all reasonable steps to make the community aware of the contents of this Plan and provide access to the document by:

- making a copy of the Plan available for public viewing free of charge in the Council Library and Main Office at 137 – 139 Oberon Street, Oberon during office hours

- placing a copy of the Plan on the Council website at www.oberon.nsw.gov.au
- placing a notice in the *Oberon Review*
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

Oberon Council's Notification Plan will be reviewed every 10 years unless circumstances warrant an earlier review of the Plan. The review process 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 discuss the Oberon Council Notification Plan is invited to contact:

Oberon Council
137 – 139 Oberon Street
Oberon 2787
Phone 02 6336 1100
Fax 02 6336 2061
or access the website www.oberon.nsw.gov.au

Approving Authority	Council
Contact	
Approval Date	
Revision Date	