



# **Notification Plan for Pesticide Use in Public Places**

**Parkes Shire Council  
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**Parkes**  
Shire Council

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### 1. Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation). The Regulation requires all NSW public authorities (including local councils) that use pesticides in outdoor places to prepare a notification plan in relation to their pesticide use and to give notice according to that plan.

This Plan has been developed with no significant changes from Council's previous Pesticide Use Notification Plan.

Parkes Shire Council is committed to working safely with chemicals and strictly adheres to safe usage guides to ensure there is a consistent approach to managing chemical risks. Council's pesticide use is subject to these safe usage guides so that pesticides are handled in a safe, responsible manner which minimises harm to our staff, the community, and the environment.

The definition of a pesticide under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999* is an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the *Commonwealth Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*, namely a substance or mixture of substances that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:

1. 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.
2. Destroying a plant.
3. Modifying the physiology of a plant or pest to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity.
4. Attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.

For the purposes of this plan pesticides include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, fumigants, bactericides, rodenticides, baits, lures, repellents and pesticides used to control internal and external animal parasites.

This plan sets out how Parkes Shire Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications by Council in public places, and documents:

- What public places are covered.
- 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 areas (what notification arrangements will be used).
- How the community can access this plan or get more information about Council's notification arrangements.
- Future reviews.
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Parkes Shire Council.

The majority of pesticide use will consist of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of programmed applications range from 6-8 times per year for sports fields, 2-5 times a year for parks and gardens and 2-4 times for



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public thoroughfares. Insecticides for the control of common nuisance insect species will be used whenever it is determined to be an effective solution.

### **2. Purpose**

The aim of this plan is to outline how and when Parkes Shire Council will notify the Parkes community about pesticide use in public places, and to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public areas that are owned or controlled by public authorities.

By notifying people about such pesticide applications this plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they wish.

This plan forms a component of Council's Integrated Pest Management Plan. This plan states that Council only use pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate priority, environmental and locally widespread weeds and to protect public assets from pest damage.

### **3. Places Covered by This Plan**

Council proposes to use pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places within the Parkes Shire:

- Public parks, playgrounds and picnic areas
- Public swimming pools
- Waste facilities
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Cemeteries
- Road shoulders, verges and reserves/commons
- Laneways and pathways including easements accessible to the public
- Vacant Council or Crown land
- Parkes Aerodrome (Airport)
- Natural areas such as reserves for water supply including Lake Endeavour and Lake Metcalfe
- Grounds around government schools.

The following table summarises the estimated level of community use and regular user groups in each of these public place categories and indicates what types of pesticide may be required in that area of concern. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide used in each category of public place has also been provided.

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<b>Public Places</b>	<b>Regular User categories</b>	<b>Estimated degree of Use of Public Place</b>	<b>Type of Pesticide Used</b>
<b>Parks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Families</li> <li>• Elderly people</li> <li>• General recreational users such as joggers, picnickers and dog walkers</li> <li>• Weddings, markets and festivals</li> </ul>	Very high - frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Broad acre selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• Fungicides</li> <li>• Rodenticides</li> <li>• Spray termites</li> <li>• Ant control</li> <li>• Rabbit control</li> </ul>
<b>Public Places</b>	<b>Regular User categories</b>	<b>Estimated degree of Use of Public Place</b>	<b>Type of Pesticide Used</b>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Families</li> </ul>	High - particularly on weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticide</li> <li>• Spray ant control</li> <li>• Bait ant control</li> </ul>
<b>Picnic areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Families</li> <li>• Social groups</li> <li>• Weddings</li> <li>• Markets</li> <li>• Elderly people</li> </ul>	High - particularly on weekends and school holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Broad acre selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• Fungicides</li> <li>• Rodenticides</li> <li>• Spray termites</li> <li>• Ant control</li> <li>• Rabbit control</li> </ul>
<b>Road Reserves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local residents</li> <li>• General community walking or driving</li> <li>• Bee keeping</li> <li>• Horse riding</li> <li>• Cyclists</li> <li>• Visitors/tourists</li> </ul>	Low for rural roads; Medium to High for urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Broad acre selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• Fungicides</li> <li>• Rodenticides</li> <li>• Spray termites</li> <li>• Ant control</li> <li>• Rabbit control</li> <li>• Locust control</li> </ul>

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<b>Sport Grounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>• School sports groups</li> <li>• General recreational users</li> <li>• Large regional sporting events</li> <li>• Festivals</li> </ul>	Medium High - particularly on weekends and school sports days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Broad acre selective and non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• Fungicides</li> <li>• Rodenticides</li> <li>• Spray termites</li> <li>• Ant control</li> <li>• Rabbit control</li> </ul>
<b>Council Laneways and Pathways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local residents</li> <li>• General community-walking</li> <li>• Visitors/tourists</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Broad acre non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>

## 4. Notification Arrangements

Parkes Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places and arrangements for emergency pesticide applications. There are certain circumstances where notice is not required to be given (see below).

These notification arrangements are based on Parkes Shire Councils 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. pregnant and elderly people, young children) are likely to use these areas regularly.
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to direct contact with pesticides (such as on sporting ovals and fields, parks etc. that may result in contact with the ground).
- The type of pesticide used.

A Notice of Pesticide Use will be provided by a combination of one or more of the following:

- Signs.
- Advertised by Council in local newspapers.
- Information on Council's website.
- Social media.
- Letters (which could include letter drops in certain areas of interest or reminders in rates notices).
- Fax or e-mail.
- Door knocks.
- Direct phone contact.

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Parkes Shire Council encourages persons and organisations to place their details on its PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION REGISTER so that advanced notification can be given of certain types of pesticide use in particular places.

Parkes Shire Council uses small quantities of some pesticide applications that are commonly available at retail stores/outlets including home gardening products. As such Council does not intend to provide notification for such pesticide applications other than by the way described in this plan, but staff will respond to all reasonable requests for information from members of the community. This applies to minor control of outdoor insect pests using baits, powders and aerosol spray cans, and spot weed control using knapsacks, wands or hand-held bottles. For pesticide applications using volumes of 20 litres or below, no notification will be given unless specified on a product label. This will also apply to the control of pest animals such as rabbits and locusts. Only when a chemical label or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requires neighbours to be notified, or if pesticide is being used in a sensitive area, will direct contact be made.

### **4.1. Outdoor Recreation Areas**

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

- Public parks and gardens.
- Any playground or picnic area.
- Any related sporting fields or ovals.
- Local cemeteries.
- Natural areas including the water reserves of Lake Endeavour and Bumberry Dam.

Signs will be erected to notify the general community at least 24 hours prior to and after application (as per label instructions) for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot spraying or broad acre spraying using selective or non-selective herbicides.
- Spot spraying or broad acre use of insecticides.
- Fungicides.

### **4.2. Outdoor Public Thoroughfares**

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public places within Parkes Shire Council's local government area:

- Laneways, footpaths etc.
- Road shoulders, verges and road reserves.
- Vacant council land.

In these places, information on the scheduled program for broad scale herbicide use will be published on Council's website or be available at the Council office.

Signs will be displayed on weed spraying vehicles prior to and during pesticide use.



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Occupiers adjacent to sensitive places will be given at least 24 hours' notice prior to application, or as arranged.

### **4.3. Council Buildings, Public Swimming Pools, and Aerodrome**

Signs will be erected near the application area or main entrance for any pesticide use in or around the Council Chambers, Library, Community Hall or any other Parkes Shire Council facility. If small quantities (under 20 litres) of pesticides are used in knapsacks, hand wands or spray bottles no signs will be required around main buildings.

Pesticide applications within public swimming pool grounds should be carried out in the 'off season' or prior to opening hours. If pesticide application needs to be carried out, then the Pool Manager will erect signs 24 hours prior to and after application.

The Parkes Aerodrome will not be required to put signs up if pesticides are used on the main runway area as this is not a public area. If pesticides are required in other areas of the aerodrome such as the car park and picnic areas, signs will be required to be appropriately placed 24 hours prior to and after application.

Any other rodenticides, baits or repellents to control feral animals will be used in accordance with the label. If neighbours need to be contacted this will be done, or if buffer zones need to be in place prior to application, signs will be placed in appropriate areas such as entrances.

Methods of pesticide application that require signs be posted at entrances 24 hours prior to application, and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards, are:

- Spot spray for selective or non-selective herbicides.
- Spot spraying for insecticides.
- Broad acre spraying for selective and non-selective herbicides or insecticides.
- Fungicides.

### **4.4. Special Measures for Sensitive Places**

The Regulation requires this Notification Plan to indicate the special protection measures that will be taken if a pesticide is proposed to be used in a prescribed public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place.

- A sensitive place is any:
  - School or Pre-school
  - Kindergarten
  - Childcare centre
  - Hospital
  - Community Health Centre
  - Nursing Home

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Pesticide usage should only be carried out in the above places during school holiday periods, before or after normal business hours or when the public will be at least risk of possible exposure. A risk assessment will be conducted by Council staff prior to work commencing in accordance with Council policy.

Direct notification 5 days prior to any scheduled pesticide application to a public sensitive place within Parkes Shire will be given to the person/organisation in charge.

### **4.5. 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, locusts, venomous spiders, fleas, birds, mites or rodents (that pose an immediate 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 Council's website ([www.parkes.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parkes.nsw.gov.au)), via Council staff at Councils Administration Centre, or by request from the Council Officer applying the pesticide.

In the case of an emergency within 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 pest infestation.

### **4.6. Contractors and Lessees**

Contractors, lessees or permit holders that apply herbicides on behalf of Parkes Shire Council to prescribed places under the control of Parkes Shire Council will be required to implement the notification requirements set out in this Notification Plan for that category of public place.

If contractors are employed or lessees are managing Council land then they must comply with this Notification Plan. Compliance will be made a condition of future pesticide application contracts and lease agreements.

### **4.7. Priority Weeds (no notice required)**

Guided by the Biosecurity Act 2015 and the Central West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027, Parkes Shire Council focusses on controlling Priority Weeds within the Parkes Shire, particularly outside urban areas. Unless weed control work is to be undertaken in any of the areas listed in this plan as requiring notification, Parkes Shire Council will not give notice when controlling Priority Weeds outside urban areas (unless required under our Pesticide Notification Register). Specific areas or works where notification will not be given include:

- Travelling Stock Reserves and other rural (non-urban) Council managed Crown Reserves
- Roadside spraying and off-shoulder control work
- Council-owned land where public access is restricted
- Priority Weeds that aren't located in publicly accessible areas

### 5. What Information Will Be Provided

Notices of pesticide use must include all the following information:

- where the pesticide will be used
- the full product name of the pesticide
- the purpose of the use
- the proposed date/s of use
- any warnings on the pesticide label or permit about how long the area must be avoided after a pesticide application
- the contact details of an officer the community can contact to discuss the notification plan, with their job title or description, and phone number or email address
- what special notification measures will be used if pesticides are used next to a sensitive place such as a school or hospital, for example, providing notification earlier, in greater detail or in a different form to ensure that the risk of people coming into contact with the pesticide application is minimised

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency near a sensitive place, extra steps will be specified to let people know about it.

### 6. How The Community Will Be Informed of This Plan

Parkees Shire Council will advise residents of this plan and its contents by one or a mix of the following:

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing at Council's Administration Centre in Parkes.
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council website: [www.parkes.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parkes.nsw.gov.au)
- Placing a notice in the Parkes Champion Post and other local village newspapers.
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.
- Including notices in the annual rates booklet advising residents of the plan.

### 7. Future Reviews of This Plan

The Regulation specifies that this plan must set out how and when future reviews of this plan will occur and how the public will be involved. Unless there is a specific need for an earlier review, this notification plan will be reviewed every five (5) years. The review process will include:

- An assessment of the operation of the current notification plan including whether the plan has met the objectives of the legislation.
- If any changes other than minor changes are required, placing the plan on public exhibition (with any proposed changes) and calling for public submissions.
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

## 8. Contact Details

Anyone wishing to contact Parkes Shire Council to discuss this Notification Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact Council's Biosecurity Team Leader, Council's Environment and Biosecurity Coordinator, or Council's Environment and Sustainability Team on 02 6861 2343 or at [council@parkes.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@parkes.nsw.gov.au).

## 9. Signage

Below is an example of the type of notification sign that will appear on pesticide application sites requiring notification.

