

Pesticide use notification plan

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1. Introduction

1.1 Definitions

EPA – Environment Protection Agency

LGA – local government area

PUG – Pesticide User Group, made up of representatives from pesticide users in Council

Remote areas – deemed to be those areas where there is little likelihood pesticide use will affect the public directly, i.e. areas with no vehicular access and low public visitation

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 EPA*

1.2 Background

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation). The aim of the 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 Council. 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.

1.3 What is does

The plan sets out how Clarence Valley Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls. 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*

1.4 Integrated Pest Management Policy

This plan forms a component of Council's integrated pest management policy. This policy states that Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate noxious and environmental 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 6-8 times per year for sports fields; 2-5 times per year for parks and gardens; and twice yearly for public thoroughfares.

Bait insecticides are used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides include fungicides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Customer Services on 02 6643 0200 Or by visiting the website www.clarence.nsw.gov.au.

2. Public Places covered by this plan

2.1 Locations

Clarence Valley Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Council's local government area:

- parks and public gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields and ovals
- public land owned or controlled by the Clarence Valley Council, including:
 - road verges and reserves
 - laneways and pathways
 - road, rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - drains
 - golf courses
 - Crown Lands - camping grounds, reserves

2.2 Council buildings and structures

Although not required by the Regulation, this notification plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Clarence Valley Council buildings or throughout the listed facilities:

- Council chambers,
- libraries,
- community halls/centres
- childcare facilities

2.3 Summary of public places

Clarence Valley 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 is summarised in the following table.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Parks and Public gardens	Children and young families Elderly people General recreational users (eg joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers)	Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	Spot herbicide Spot insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Fungicide (usually garden beds) Spray termiticides, ant control Bait termiticides, ant control Bait bird control
Playgrounds	Children Young families	High	Spot herbicide Spot insecticides Spray ant control Bait ant control
Picnic areas	Families Other social groups (eg ethnic, religious, clubs)	High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	Spot herbicide Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Fungicide (usually garden beds) Spray termiticides, Spray ant control Bait termiticides, Bait ant control Bait bird control
Sporting fields and ovals	Sporting clubs and associations School sports groups General recreational users (eg joggers, dog-walkers)	High	Spot herbicide Spot insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Spray or bait termiticides, on facilities Rodenticides near facilities

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Road verges and reserves	Locals residents Visitors walking or driving on the road	Low for rural roads Medium to high for urban roads	Spot herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Laneways and pathways	Locals residents People who work in the area Visitors walking or driving on the road	Medium to high	Spot herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, rail, water, sewer, electricity)	Locals residents People who work in the area	Low to medium	Spot herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Drains	Local resident living adjacent to the drain Local residents who walk or drive past the drain	Low to medium	Spot herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Golf courses	Golfers Walkers	High	Spot herbicide Spot insecticides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Broadscale insecticides Fungicide (usually garden beds) Spray termiticides, ant control
Crown land (Council as trustee)	Locals residents People who work in the area Visitors walking or driving in the reserve	Medium to high	Spot herbicides Broadscale selective herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides Aerial application of herbicides Large vertebrate baiting

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Interiors of public buildings	Library users Young children and their carers Parents groups/playgroups Community associations Church groups General members of the public	High	Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Spray termiticides Spray ant control Bait termiticides Bait ant control Bait bird control
Swimming pool buildings and grounds	Swimmers	High	Fungicides Algicides

3. Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Clarence Valley Council either through its staff or contractors) will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on Clarence Valley 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 or 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)
- For some application techniques, the public is unlikely to encounter pesticides eg. Bush regeneration programs using the cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques
- Type of pesticide used

3.1 How notice of pesticide use will be provided

Because of the large number of public places managed by Council, the range of pest species and the range of pesticides for their control, it is not possible for all detailed uses of pesticides to be specified in this plan. Therefore it is important for members of the public who wish to avoid places where pesticides have been used recently, contact Council and ask staff for further details.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided in one of more of the following ways:

- Signs ¹
- Information on Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places)
- Public notices in newspaper
- Letters or Letterbox drops
- Fax and email
- Door knocking
- Phone contact

3.2 Pesticide sensitive register

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

¹ Signs put up by Council are often removed or subjected to vandalism. While Council will make every effort to replace signs removed or vandalised it cannot guarantee that this will occur in all situations.

particular places, as described in this section of this plan.

3.3 When notice of pesticide use will not be provided

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 other than by way of description in this plan (or general information on Council's website). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol cans and spot weed control using wand or hand-held spray bottle (e.g. for cut stump work) or backpack spraying not exceeding 1 litre of concentrate of herbicide per operator per day).

3.4 When notice of pesticide use will be provided

3.4.1 Outdoor recreation areas

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

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

For these areas, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the application is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

Where any pesticide uses occur adjacent to 'sensitive places' (see section 1.1 definitions) 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 sensitive places who register interest with Council can also have notice of the pesticide use faxed or emailed at least 48 hours prior to application.

Information will be available to the general community on Council's website about the forward program for the above applications (updated every three months), and on the following pesticide uses in outdoor recreation areas:

- spot herbicides
- spot insecticides
- bait ant control

3.4.2 Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public

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

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

In these public places, information will be available to the general community on Council's website about the forward program for Broadscale selective and non-selective herbicide use (updated every three months). Signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance during the application and remain until the completion of the application.

In remote areas where it is unlikely that the public will encounter pesticides, signs will be restricted to the operating vehicles only.

For roads and reserves, signs will be erected where a significant area has been treated by broadscale herbicide application with a herbicide that has a withholding period applying to any produce for slaughter or consumption. It is up to the discretion of the operator if the locality requires signage. This decision is influenced by the likelihood that stock or produce may be subjected to exposure and/or the withholding period is over a time span that would raise the possibility of contamination, eg any herbicide with a derivative of the active constituent *Flupropanate*. The signage that is displayed will state the day control was carried out and the Council contact number.

Information on the programmed and reactive spot use of herbicides will also be posted on Council's website every three months. Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, adjacent to sensitive places, and/or parties who register with Council, prior notice by mail or letterbox drop will be provided at least 5 days beforehand.

Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their properties.

3.4.3 Golf courses

Information on the following types of pesticide use shall consist of signs posted at the main entrance or at the tee of the relevant fairway for at least 24 hours afterwards and at least 24 hours beforehand on the noticeboard:

- *Broadscale selective herbicides*
- *Broadscale non-selective herbicides*
- *Broadscale insecticides*
- *Fungicides*
- *spray ant control*

Information on the quarterly forward program for the above applications as well as the general information on the following types of pesticide uses shall be available in a printed brochure from the notice board:

- *Spot herbicides*

- *Spot insecticides*
- *Bait ant control*

3.4.4 Interiors of public buildings

For interiors of buildings owned or controlled by Clarence Valley Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

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

Information for the general community will be posted on Council's website every 3 months about the above applications and on the following pesticide uses in the above council buildings:

- *Bait termiticides*
- *Bait ant control*
- *Bait bird control*

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

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

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in 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 on 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.

3.4.6 Notification of 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), signs will be provided nearby at the time of application. Council will provide information by request to the person applying the pesticide.

3.4.7 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Clarence Valley Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, the contractor is responsible for ensuring that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan. The contractor may request Council to assist with this responsibility.

The Council staff member responsible for engaging the contractor is to ensure that information pertaining to the application of the pesticide will be available to the general community on Council's website.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Clarence Valley 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.

3.4.8 Public places where no notice will be provided

Notice will not be provided at the following prescribed public places:

- *Drains under responsibility of Clarence Valley Floodplain Services*
- *Areas deemed 'remote' by definition under this plan*

4. What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used, and
- the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated, and
- the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use, and
- the places where the pesticide is to be used, and
- 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 the APVMA² permit.

4.1 What is the purpose of information?

The purpose of information is to ensure the public is covered as 'right to know' – this is achieved through:

- Signs – a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers
- Council's website – a dedicated area will describe the programmed and reactive pesticide use in public places with a link to this notification plan
- Rates notices
- Council's regular weekly block newspaper advertisement

4.2 Who is responsible?

All pesticide users in Council will be responsible for how information is disseminated. This will be assessed at least annually, by the CVC PUG.

4.3 Who are the assessors?

The members of the PUG will determine who will carry out the assessments.

The Manager and/or Director will be responsible for ensuring that the assessors have a detailed knowledge of the information required under this plan.

² The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

5. How will the community be informed of this plan

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

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its offices in Prince Street, Grafton and River Street, Maclean
- placing a copy of the plan on the its website – www.clarence.nsw.gov.au
- advertisement through community noticeboards on Radio 2GF 1286AM and Radio ABC 2NR 738AM
- placing a notice in the Daily Examiner and/or Clarence Valley Review under the dedicated Council Notices section
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

5.1 Who is responsible?

All pesticide users in Council will be responsible for how the community is informed. This will be assessed at least annually, by the CVC PUG.

6. Future reviews of the plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the plan
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

7. Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact Clarence Valley Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact Council's:

Customer Services

at

2 Prince Street, Grafton

or

50 River Street, Maclean

or

Ph. 02 6643 0200

or access the website www.clarence.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 1 – example of notification forward to newspapers

CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL PRINT MEDIA ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FORM

Directorate/Business Unit:	Environment and Planning/Noxious Weeds Office
Submitted By: (Name and Title)	Reece Luxton, Senior Environmental Officer (Weeds)
Approved By: (Name and Title)	Reece Luxton, Senior Environmental Officer (Weeds)
File Reference:	Service Provision, Private Works – Noxious Weeds Office
Allocation Number:	400176 2803 2501
Date to Appear:	Week beginning 3/7/06, and further four weeks thereafter
Block Ad:	Yes
Other Ad: (please specify the name of the paper and date/dates of placement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Examiner on 8/7/06 • Clarence Valley Review on 5/7/06 and further four weeks thereafter
Type of Advertisement: (Position Vacant, Tender, Public Notices)	Public Notice

Please type advertisement as it is to appear (Arial 11 - Justified) in the space below.

Bindii and Broadleaf weed control program

Council wishes to notify residents and visitors that herbicide spraying of footpaths, parks and reserves and caravan parks in the Clarence Valley Council area for bindii and other broadleaf weeds will commence on 10/7/2006. The program is expected to continue for a period of four weeks depending on weather conditions.

For further information contact the Noxious Weeds Office on ph. 6643 3820.