

# POLICY REGISTER

## PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL

| Issue | Prepared/Revised<br>By and Date                 | Action/Amendment<br>Description | Approved By and Date                  |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.0   | Michael Mae<br>November 2006                    |                                 |                                       |
| 2.0   | Katy-Rose Hunt<br>December 2006                 |                                 |                                       |
| 3.0   | Maryanne Stephens<br>July 2015                  |                                 | Minute No: 175.7.15<br>23rd July 2015 |
| 4.0   | Sylvester Otieno<br>30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 |                                 | Minute No: 172.5.25<br>22nd May 2025  |

## 1. Introduction

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation)*. The plan sets out how Warren Shire 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 aim of this plan is to provide general notice on the use and presence of pesticide applications made to public places that are owned or controlled by Warren Shire Council.

Council uses pesticides in public spaces in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

This plan outlines:

- what public places are covered by this 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 outdoor 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 and when future reviews of the plan will be conducted; and
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate noxious 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 2 times per year for sports fields, 6 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 used include rodent baits, fog mist, dusting and hand spray insecticides.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Manager Health and Development on 02 6847 6600 or by visiting Council's website [www.warren.nsw.gov.au](http://www.warren.nsw.gov.au) or Council offices at 115 Dubbo Street, Warren during normal business hours.

## 2. Public places covered by this plan

Warren Shire Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls within the Shire area:

- parks and public gardens;
- playgrounds;
- picnic areas;
- sporting fields and ovals;
- road verges and reserves;
- laneways and pathways;
- easements accessible to the public;
- drains;
- swimming pool grounds;
- around public buildings;
- bridges (timber); and
- other public places (waste disposal depots, etc.).

This plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Council buildings:

- Council Chambers and Administration Offices;
- Council Works Depot;
- Warren Shire Library;
- Warren Sporting and Cultural Centre;
- Warren youth zone;
- Council owned residences (if resided in by Council employee);
- Swimming Pool Amenities;
- Warren Visitors Information Centre;
- Airport Terminal;
- Public toilets;
- Warren Shire Council pound; and
- Racecourse/Showground buildings and amenities.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarise in the following table. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

*Table #1: Public places owned or controlled by Council and level of use, including type of pesticide use.*

| Public places owned or controlled by Council | Regular user groups   | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use                                   |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Parks and public gardens</b>              | Children and young families<br>Elderly people<br>General recreation users | Medium to high               | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>                           | Children<br>Young families  | Medium to high               | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides |
| <b>Picnic areas</b>                          | Visitors to the area<br>People who work in the area                       | Low to Medium                | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides |

| Public places owned or controlled by Council   | Regular user groups   | Level of use of public place                          | Type of pesticide use  |
|--|---|---|--|
|  | General recreational users  |   |  |
| <b>Sporting fields and ovals</b>   | Sporting clubs and associations<br>School sports groups<br>General recreational users                         | High  | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides  |
| <b>Road verges and reserves</b>  | Local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road  | Low for rural roads<br>Medium to high for urban roads | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides  |
| <b>Laneways and pathways</b>   | Local residents<br>People who work in the area<br>Visitors to the area  | Medium to high  | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides  |
| <b>Easements accessible to the public</b>  | Local residents and people who work in the area   | Low to medium   | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides  |
| <b>Drains</b>  | Local residents living adjacent to a drain<br>Local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain      | Low to medium   | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides  |
| <b>Swimming pool grounds</b>   | Swimming club patrons and visitors<br>Local residents and visitors to the area<br>People who work in the area | High (in summer months of the year)                   | Spot herbicides<br>Broad scale non selective herbicides<br>Hand spray insecticides<br>Rodent baits |
| <b>Other public places (i.e. waste depots etc.)</b>  | Local residents<br>People who work in the area  | Medium  | <b>Spot herbicides</b><br><b>Broad scale non selective herbicides</b><br><b>Insecticides</b>       |
| <b>Interior of Council owned or controlled buildings: library; Council chambers and administration buildings; public toilets; airport; visitors centre; Council works depot; sporting and cultural centre; youth zone; showground / racecourse; swimming pool amenities.</b> | Local residents<br>People who work in the area<br>Visitors to the area  | Medium to high  | Insecticides – dusting, hand spray and fog mist<br>Rodent Bait                                     |

### 3. Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Warren Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places including special measures for applications for public places near sensitive places, arrangements for emergency applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

For the purposes of this plan there are four types of notifications:

- a) Minimal usage
- b) Non-sensitive areas
- c) Sensitive areas
- d) Emergency applications

These notification arrangements are based on Warren Shire 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; and
- the type of pesticide used.

Methods of notification include:

- signs (either at the location or mounted on vehicle at time of application);
- roadside signs;
- information on Council's website [www.warren.nsw.gov.au](http://www.warren.nsw.gov.au) ;
- door knocking (only in the case of an emergency application);
- letters (posted or letterbox drop); and/or
- phone calls, fax or email.
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Council will also allow residents 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.

#### 3.1. Minimal Usage

Warren Shire Council will not notify pesticide applications where it is not legally required to.

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 spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand held spray bottle.

#### 3.2. Non-sensitive areas

| Public places owned or controlled by Council | Type of pesticide use  | Method of notification to be provided  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Parks and public gardens</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Broad scale non selective</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul> <p>AND/OR</p> |

| Public places owned or controlled by Council | Type of pesticide use   | Method of notification to be provided   |
|--|---|---|
|  | herbicides  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs erected in prominent locations or at main entrance of area at commencement of application. Signage to remain a minimum 24hours after completion of application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs erected in prominent locations or at main entrance of area at commencement of application. Signage to remain a minimum 24hours after completion of application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Picnic areas</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs erected in prominent locations or at main entrance of area at commencement of application. Signage to remain a minimum 24hours after completion of application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sporting fields and ovals</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul> <p>AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs erected in prominent locations or at main entrance of area at commencement of application. Signage to remain a minimum 24hours after completion of application</li> </ul> |
| <b>Road verges and reserves</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Laneways and pathways</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Easements accessible to the public</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Drains</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Swimming pool grounds</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> <li>Insecticides</li> </ul> | <p>Outside Swimming Season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul> <p>During Swimming Season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs erected at main public entry point at the time of application. Signage to remain a minimum 24hours after</li> </ul>        |

| Public places owned or controlled by Council   | Type of pesticide use  | Method of notification to be provided   |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | completion of application<br>Outside Swimming Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> During Swimming Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs erected at main public entry point at the time of application. Signage to remain a minimum 24hours after completion of application</li> </ul> |
| <b>Other public places (i.e. waste depots etc.)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Broad scale non selective herbicides</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage affixed to vehicle undertaking application</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Interior of Council owned or controlled buildings: library; Council chambers and administration buildings; public toilets; airport; visitors centre; Council works depot; sporting and cultural centre; youth zone; showground / racecourse; swimming pool amenities.</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insecticides – dusting, hand spray and fogmist</li> <li>• Rodent Bait Insecticides</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs erected in prominent locations or at main entrance of area at commencement of application. Signage to remain a minimum 24hours after completion of application</li> </ul>  |

### 3.3. Sensitive areas

Pesticides Regulation 2017 defines a sensitive place to be any:

- a) School, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre;
- b) Hospital, community health centre or nursing home;
- c) Any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by order published in the Gazette.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticides use in public places adjacent (<50m) to sensitive places will consist of advanced or concurrent notice provided either orally, or in written form to an appropriate person or position holder at the facility.

### 3.4. Emergency applications

In cases where emergency applications in public places are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, rodents etc. (that pose immediate health risk), notice will be provided as per the Non-sensitive area notification requirements.

Where broad scale spraying is required at short notice (e.g. plague locust control) and public notification is not possible, special precautions will be taken to prevent the public encountering pesticides (e.g. road or facility closures).

### 3.5. Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Warren Shire Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on their behalf, they shall provide notice as per this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Warren Shire Council and remains a



public place, the lessee will provide notice.

#### **4. What information will be provided**

In accordance with the 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
- any warnings about limitations on the subsequent use of or entry onto the land if such warnings are specified on the approved label for the pesticide or in the permit for use of the pesticide; and
- contact telephone number or email address of the Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice.

#### **5. How the community will be notified of this plan**

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

- making a copy of this plan available, free of charge, at the front counter of Council's administration building at 115 Dubbo Street, Warren during normal business hours;
- placing a notice in the Warren Weekly newspaper;
- placing a copy of this plan on Council's website [www.warren.nsw.gov.au](http://www.warren.nsw.gov.au);
- making a copy of this plan available at Warren Shire Council's Library on the Corner of Readford and Dubbo Streets, Warren; and
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.
- SMS via Whispir Service
- Social media i.e. Facebook, X, and LinkedIn

#### **6. Plan Review**

This Plan should be reviewed every 4 years or within 12 months of a Council election. The Plan may be reviewed and amended at any time at Council's discretion (or if legislative changes occur).