



**Gunnedah**Shire

# PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

<b>Dates</b>	Plan or amendment approved Plan or amendment takes effect Plan is due for review	19 Apr 2023 19 May 2023 19 Apr 2028
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Executive Leadership Team	
<b>Approved by</b>	Gunnedah Shire Council at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held 19 Apr 2023. Resolution number: 15.4/23	
<b>Plan Custodian</b>	Manager Public Facilities	
<b>Relevant to</b>	All staff, contractors and the community	
<b>Superseded Documents</b>	Policy – Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2015	
<b>Related Documents</b>	Nil	
<b>Related Legislation</b>	Pesticide Act 1999, Pesticide Regulation 2017 Biosecurity Act 2015 Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Code Act 1994	

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## 1. Introduction

Under the NSW Pesticides Act of 1999, a pesticide is an agricultural chemical product. This is defined by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Code Act 1994 as being *a substance, or mixture of substances, that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:*

- *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; or*
- *Destroying a plant; or*
- *Modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or*
- *Attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.*

As part of Gunnedah Shire Council's general maintenance program, pesticides, including selective and non-selective herbicides, insecticides and fungicides are regularly applied to both urban and rural locations. Areas of usage range from parks, playing fields and streets within Gunnedah township and surrounding villages, to State highways, regional and rural roads and reserves across the Shire. These areas are generally freely accessible to all members of the general public.

The NSW Pesticide Regulation 2017 requires that all public authorities (which includes Gunnedah Shire Council) prepare, finalise and notify the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of a **Pesticide Use Notification Plan**.

A public authority must not use any pesticide in a prescribed public place that is owned by or is under the control of the public authority, or allow any person to use any pesticide in a prescribed public place that is owned by or is under the control of the public authority, unless the public authority has first complied with this obligation.

A Pesticide Use Notification Plan for a public authority must set out how and when the public authority will give public notice of the proposed use of pesticides in any prescribed public place owned by the public authority or under its control. It describes:

- Which 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 regarding pesticide applications in public places;
- How the community can access this plan and obtain more information regarding the notification arrangements;
- How future reviews of this Plan will be undertaken; and
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss aspects of this Plan.

## 2. Land to which this Plan applies

Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in any of the following areas to which the public is entitled to have access (whether or not on payment of a fee):

- Any public garden
- Any picnic area
- Any playground
- Any park, sporting field or oval
- Any public land owned or controlled by a public authority (for example, a verge road, rail easement or an easement for electricity purposes or for purposes of other utilities)
- Any land reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 or any State Forest or Crown Land, or
- The grounds of any government school (within the meaning of the Education Act 1990) or any establishment maintained by the Technical and Further Education Commission, but does not include the inside of any building or structure located at such a place.
- Interiors of Council owned/managed facilities.

**TABLE 1: User Groups, frequency of use and types of pesticides used on Gunnedah Shire Council controlled assets.**

Public Places	Regular Users	Frequency of Use	Pesticides Used
Council controlled rural roads & verges	Travellers, local community members, Council maintenance workers, contractors and travelling livestock	Low to Medium	Glyphosate Metsulfuron Methyl Picloram Triclopyr MCPA/Dicamba Chlopyralid
Roadside and rest areas	Travellers, local community members, Council maintenance workers, and contractors	High	Glyphosate MCPA/Dicamba Chlopyralid Picloram Triclopyr
Roadside utilities including guide posts, Armco rails, bridges, signposts and culverts	Travellers, local community members, council maintenance workers, and contractors	High	Glyphosate Chlopyralid
Parks & Playing fields, tourist information centres	General public, school children and local sporting bodies	High	Glyphosate MCPA/Dicamba Chlopyralid Insecticides

			Fungicides Fertiliser Wetting agents
Urban streets and footpaths	General public including pedestrians and urban commuters	High	Glyphosate MCPA/Dicamba
Easements including waterways and access roads	Council maintenance staff and contractors	Low to Medium	Glyphosate MCPA/Dicamba Picloram Triclopyr
Pool	Council maintenance staff and contractors	Medium to High	Glyphosate MCPA Dicamba Chloryralid
Airport	Council maintenance staff and contractors	Medium to High	Glyphosate MCPA Dicamba Chloryralid
Crown Lands	Community, Council staff, Department of Land staff.	Low to Medium	Glyphosate Metsulfuron Methyl Picloram Triclopyr MCPA/Dicamba Chloryralid
Interiors of public buildings	Users (including young children and the elderly), parents groups/playgroups, community associations, general members of the public, council staff and visitors to the area.	High	Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Spray/bait termiticides Spray/bait ant control

### 3. Notification arrangements

This section of the Plan describes how and when the Gunnedah Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public areas. These notification arrangements are determined by an 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) are likely to use these areas regularly.
- The extent to which activities in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides.
- The type of pesticide used.

Pesticide use is subject to suitable weather conditions, but wherever possible, information will be provided at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the planned pesticide application. Notice of pesticide use will be issued in one or more of the following ways:

- The erection or placement of signs in areas where pesticides have been applied (usually appropriate in the case of parks, ovals and reserves).
- Advertisement in print media or via radio announcements (usually appropriate in the case of town streets and footpaths).
- Advertisement on Council's website: [www.infogunnedah.com.au](http://www.infogunnedah.com.au)
- Telephone, email or personal contact in the case of sensitive areas.

The responsible officer is to ensure that Council's Customer Service team is kept informed of all pesticide applications as part of the notification process.

### **3.1 Exemption from notification**

Where Council uses 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. This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests and weeds using baits, small application bottles, cut-n-paint techniques or aerosol spray cans.

### **3.2 Situations where pesticides are likely to be applied**

#### **3.2.1 Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public**

This includes the following categories of public places:

- Council controlled roads and verges
- Roadside rest areas

Information on the use of pesticides in these places will be:

- Found on signs placed in a prominent location of the site during and after the pesticide has been applied. The signs will remain in place until the operation is completed. When foliage has been sprayed, the signs will remain in place until the herbicide has dried.
- Via radio or print media announcements at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the application of the pesticide.
- Information may also be obtained from Gunnedah Shire Council via the telephone number printed on the sign.

#### **3.2.2 Council-managed land**

Including but not limited to the following -

- Roadside utilities, including guideposts, Armco rails, bridges, signposts and culverts
- Parks and Playing fields, tourist information centres and showgrounds
- Easements including waterway and access roads
- Pool and Council managed Airport

Information on the use of pesticides in these places will be:

- Found on signs placed in a prominent location of the site during and after the pesticide has been applied. The signs will remain in place until the operation is completed. When foliage has been sprayed, the signs will remain in place until the herbicide has dried.
- Via radio or print media announcements at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the application of the pesticide.
- Information may also be obtained from Gunnedah Shire Council via the telephone number printed on the sign.

### **3.2.3 Vacant Crown Land Reserves**

Information on the use of pesticides in these places will be:

- Found on signs placed in a prominent location of the site during and after the pesticide has been applied. The signs will remain in place until the operation is completed. When foliage has been sprayed, signs will remain in place until the herbicide has dried.
- Information may also be obtained from the Gunnedah Shire Council via the telephone number printed on the sign.

### **3.2.4 Urban streets and footpaths**

Information on the use of pesticides in these places will be:

- Via radio or print media announcements at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the application of the pesticide.
- Found on signs placed in a prominent location of the site during and after the pesticide has been applied. The signs will remain in place until the operation is completed. When foliage has been sprayed, signs will remain in place until the herbicide has dried.

### **3.2.5 Sensitive Places**

Clause 39 of the Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Childcare centre
- Hospital
- Community health care centre
- Nursing home

- Any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by notice in the Gazette.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places adjacent to the sensitive places (within 200m) listed above will consist of:

- Notification of that intended pesticide use will be provided via email and/or direct phone contact (whichever is most practical) to the management of defined sensitive places at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the application of that pesticide.

### **3.2.6 Interiors of public buildings**

Including but not limited to the following –

- Council chambers
- Library
- Community halls/centres
- Commercial properties
- Pool buildings
- Waste facility
- Offices
- RFS Sheds
- Saleyards buildings
- Sports field facilities
- Public toilets

Information on the use of pesticides in these places will be:

- Found on signs provided near the application area or at the main entrance immediately prior to the pesticide use and may remain in place at least until the operation is completed. Signs will be left in place where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of notification.
- Notice will also be provided to any usual occupants of public buildings, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior, where possible.
- Effort will be made to ensure spraying occurs at times that would result in no/minimal interruption to the general happenings in those buildings.

### **3.2.7 Pesticide contractors**

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this Plan.



## 4. Information to be provided

In accordance with Clause 41(1)(h) of the Regulation, notice of pesticide use must include the following information:

- The full product name of the pesticide to be used as it is listed on the pesticide label.
- The purpose for which the pesticide is to be used.
- The date(s) on which, or the range of dates during which that the pesticide is to be used.
- The places where the pesticide will be used.
- 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.
- Contact details of the Council officer that can be contacted to discuss the use of pesticide.

Pesticide Use signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to members of the community (sample shown in Appendix).

## 5. Informing the community

Gunnedah Shire Council will advise the community of this Plan and its contents by:

- Making a hard copy of the Plan available for viewing at Council's Administration Building at 63 Elgin Street, Gunnedah.
- Advertising the Plan on Council's website.
- Advertising the Plan in the local print media.
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

## 6. Future reviews of this Plan

This Plan will be reviewed every five (5) years, or when circumstances require a prior preview. The review will include:

- Exhibiting the Plan to the public for twenty-eight (28) days, calling for written submissions commenting on the Plan.
- Making further recommendations or alterations resulting from the public submissions.

## 7. Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact Gunnedah Shire Council regarding the Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications conducted by Council should email [council@infogunnedah.com.au](mailto:council@infogunnedah.com.au) or phone 02 6740 2100.

## 8. Appendix

Sample Pesticide Use warning sign:

**GUNNEDAH  
SHIRE COUNCIL**

**WARNING**

**PESTICIDES IN USE**

PESTICIDE TYPE : \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF APPLICATION : \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/S OF APPLICATION : \_\_\_\_\_

TARGET PEST : \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS : \_\_\_\_\_

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT : \_\_\_\_\_

PH. \_\_\_\_\_ MOB. \_\_\_\_\_