



Our Vision

Nambucca Valley ~ Living at its best

Our Mission Statement

'The Nambucca Valley will value and protect its natural environment, maintain its assets and infrastructure and develop opportunities for its people.'

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to meet the communities general 'right to know' about pesticide use within public places. The plan allows the general community to be aware of areas that are being treated with pesticides and take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. The plan does not mean that the public is at greater risk or harm from pesticides.

The Nambucca Valley Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and environment. Pesticides are used in public place when necessary to eliminate weeds, to protect public when necessary to eliminate weeds, to protect public property from pest damage, to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger, and to meet the community expectations for aesthetically appealing parks and public facilities.

The Nambucca Valley Council is committed to ensure that pesticide use is justified, minimised and the lowest toxicity of pesticides necessary to achieve the desired outcome. The Nambucca Valley Council will continue to investigate alternatives to pesticide use wherever available, cost effective and practicable.

The plan describes the methods of notification the Nambucca Valley Council will utilise to notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls. It describes:

- what public places are covered by the plan;
- who is most likely to use or access these public places and an estimate of the level of use;
- how and by what means the Nambucca Valley Council will provide the community with information about pesticide applications within lands it owns or manages;
- how the community will be informed of the notification arrangements contained in the plan;
- how often future reviews of the plan will be conducted;
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss pesticide use and notification with Council.

2.0 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

This Pesticide Notification plan describes the areas within the Nambucca Valley Council that pesticides are proposed to be used and the categories of the public places it covers. Public places include the following areas that the public is entitled to access:

- Public Gardens, Parks and Reserves
 - Playgrounds
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- Sporting Fields and Ovals
- Laneways and Pathways
- Drains and Easements
- Road Verges
- Caravan / Holiday Parks
- Cemeteries
- Swimming Pool Grounds
- Public Buildings

A Public Place also includes any other Council managed / owned property that is leased to any party / parties, which the general public is entitled to access.

The Nambucca Valley Council estimates that 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
Public Parks, Reserves and Gardens	General Public Community Groups Volunteer Groups	High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective Herbicide
Playgrounds, Skate Parks and Cycleways	General Public Community Groups Volunteer Groups Kindergartens	High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective Herbicide
Sporting fields and ovals	Sporting Associations General Public Community Groups Social Groups Schools Maintenance Volunteers Caretakers Section 355 Committees	High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective Herbicide
Road verges, Drains and Reserves on Council Managed / Owned Roads	General Public Cyclists Horse Riders Graziers	High for Urban based roads / Low for rural roads	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective and Non Selective Herbicide
Laneways and pathways on Council Managed / Owned Roads	General Public Cyclists	High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective and Non Selective Herbicide
Camping grounds	General Public School Groups	High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective and Non Selective Herbicide
Cemeteries	General Public Staff Contractors	Medium	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective
Crown Reserves Managed by Council	General Public	Low to High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective and Non Selective Herbicide

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE
Interiors and exteriors of public buildings	General Public Staff Volunteers Caretakers	High	Spot Insecticide Rodenticides
Macksville Memorial Aquatic Centre	General Public School Groups Community Groups Staff Lessees	High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective Herbicides Rodenticides
Waste Depot	General Public Staff	High	Spot Herbicide Spot Insecticide Broad Scale Selective Herbicides Rodenticides

3.0 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Nambucca Valley Council 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 Nambucca Valley Council's, assessment of:

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides are to be applied.
- The types groups of the public who are likely to come in contact with pesticides within public places and their potential sensitivity to pesticides.
- The extent of activities that may be undertaken within Public places that may raise the potential for the public to come in direct contact with pesticides (such as picnic areas where food is to be consumed; children groups coming in contact with pesticide in playgrounds / ovals; sporting and other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground, thus increasing the potential for contact with pesticides).
- The types of pesticides to be used within public areas.

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of any or all of the following depending on the level of public use and potential for contact with pesticides by the public:

- Signage during application
- Information at Council Administration Centre during business hours
- Notification in person or by letter prior to pesticide application in or around areas deemed to be sensitive in nature (i.e. public places including kindergartens, pre-schools, schools, nursing homes, Hospitals).
- Notices in the local newspaper outlining any broad scale selective or non-selective pesticide use within sporting ovals and playgrounds.
- Door knocks / public announcement via radio of emergency pesticide applications.

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following areas owned or managed by Council:

- Public Gardens
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting Fields and Ovals

- Skate parks and Cycle ways
- Swimming Pool Building and Grounds
- Cemeteries
- Camping Grounds
- Interior and exterior of Public Buildings

Signage will be erected whilst Council staff or contractors are utilising small non-commercial quantities of diluted herbicides throughout the duration of small scale weed / grass encroachments in public places when using hand held spray bottles, knapsacks or other low volume / pressure application techniques.

Where **Broad Scale** Selective and Non-Selective Pesticides are to be used, in the above areas, notification will be given prior to use via notices in the local Guardian newspaper of the proposed application date range, purpose of application, contact details of responsible parties for the pesticide application and warnings on re-entry by the public as specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.

The following notification arrangements will be followed when pesticides are to be applied to the following areas owned or managed by Council:

- Road verges and Reserves
- Laneways and Pathways
- Crown Reserves managed by Council
- Drains

Information will be posted in the Council's regular advertisements in the local Newspaper every three (3) months outlining the future Broad Scale herbicide program that is to be conducted on the above Council managed / owned lands. Signs will be prominently displayed on the spray vehicle or on the road verge during application and removed when the spraying is completed.

4.0 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).

Where Council will be applying pesticides in or near areas deemed to be sensitive in nature, Council will utilise the following methods to notify the appropriate representative within the above sites:

- Door knocking or telephoning the sensitive place prior to the application of pesticides;
- Displaying pesticide application signage on vehicles or temporary signage warning the public of the pesticides application, which will be removed post application;
- Provide contact details of responsible Council Staff details and other information as requested by the public on the use of pesticides in or near these sensitive areas.

Other sensitive places shall include:

- Bus Shelters
- Sporting Fields
- Amenities Blocks

- Libraries
- Public Buildings

5.0 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), Council will, where possible, provide notice by appropriate signage to inform the public of the emergency pesticide application in public places. If signage is not available at the time of treatment information can be requested from persons applying the pesticide and the appropriate responsible Council employee's details will be made available to all parties requesting this information.

6.0 PESTICIDE CONTRACTORS AND LESSEES OF PUBLIC PLACES

Pesticide application by contractors on Council owned or managed lands will follow the notification requirements in accordance with this notification plan.

On Council owned or managed lands that remain a public place, over which persons or organisations hold an existing lease, Council will not provide notification of pesticide use. However Council will require the lessee/s to comply with the notification requirements in accordance with this Pesticide Notification Plan.

7.0 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

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

- Product name of the pesticide
- Purpose of the application and the target pest/s
- Proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide application
- The target area of pesticide application
- Contact details of responsible Council employee/s who are responsible for the pesticide application and/or the contractor who is performing the pesticide application
- Warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, as specified on the pesticide product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit

8.0 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

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

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, during office hours, at the Valley Chambers, Princess Street, Macksville.
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council's website www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au
- Placing a notice in The Guardian News
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

9.0 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- A report on the implementation of the plan
- Placing any amendments to the plan on public exhibition for any submissions by the public
- Recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Mr T Woodward
Green Space Coordinator
Nambucca Valley Council
PO Box 177
MACKSVILLE NSW 2447

Email: tim.woodward@nambucca.nsw.gov.au
Ph: 0417 271 378

10.0 HISTORY

Department:	Engineering Services	Last Reviewed	Resolution Number
Policy Category	Council	19/01/2012 (25060/2011)	3351/12
Endorsed By:	General Manager	29/11/2018 (38210/2018)	600/18
Approval Authority	Council	28/02/19 (38210/2018)	93/19
Policy Owner	Green Space Coordinator		
Contact Officer	Green Space Coordinator		
Document No.	ES 24 - 38210/2018 (replaces 25060/2011)		
First Adopted	15 March 2007		
Resolution No:	93/19		
Review Date:	Nov 2020		