

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

March 2016

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Definitions¹

APVMA: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

Bactericide: A chemical that kills vegetative forms of bacteria under defined conditions.

Bait: A pesticidal mixture that contains a toxicant (active constituent), a food that the pest prefers and possibly an attractant, e.g. a pheromone bait.

Broadscale application: this type of application is considered to involve boom sprays, aerial sprays and other methods delivering high volumes over a wide area.

Directed application: The precise application of a product to a specific area, such as a row or bed, or to a plant organ, such as the lower leaves and stems of a plant. Directed application of pesticides is using a mechanical pump and hand held or automated nozzle delivering single sprays, generally in a linear pattern and targeting a restricted area of weeds. Examples are spraying kerbs, gutters and median strips, or steep slopes and other difficult to access areas.

Fungicide: Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, killing, destroying, repelling or controlling any fungi (vegetative mycelia, budding yeasts and/or their spores) under defined conditions.

Herbicide: Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying or controlling any unwanted plant, including algae or aquatic weeds.

Insecticide: Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or controlling any of the numerous small invertebrate animals generally belonging to the class Insecta. For convenience, insecticides are also described as preventing, destroying or controlling non-insects from other (non-insect) classes of arthropods such as spiders, mites, ticks, centipedes or slaters.

Non-selective herbicide: A chemical that is generally toxic to plants without regard to species. A herbicide that will kill or injure almost any plant, whether it be crop or weed, grass or broadleaved.

Pesticide sensitivity (Do Not Spray) register: Tweed Shire Council maintains a register of residents with chemical sensitivity who request no pesticides are sprayed along their property boundaries. Members of the public can apply for inclusion on the register by completing and submitting a Pesticide Sensitivity Notification Form to Council. Properties listed on the register are treated as 'sensitive places' in terms of pesticide use notification procedures, as outlined in this plan.

Rodenticide: Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or controlling rodents declared to be pests.

Sensitive place: Clause 18 of the Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre
- Hospital, community health centre or nursing home, or
- A place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority.

Properties listed on the Pesticide Sensitivity (Do Not Spray) register are treated as 'sensitive places' in terms of pesticide use notification procedures, as outlined in this plan.

¹ A selection of definitions are adopted from the Australian Government – Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website – Definitions of terms - <http://apvma.gov.au/definition-of-terms> or, where not covered by APVMA, are as defined by Council.

Selective herbicide: A chemical that is more toxic to some plants species than to others—this may be a function of dosage or mode of application as well as chemical composition.

Spot spray or spot treatment or spot application: A spray applied to small restricted areas such as individual weeds or small patches of weeds and plants. Spot spraying is used where weed infestation is not sufficiently uniform to justify an overall spray. Spot application of pesticides is using a backpack or hand held applicator (e.g. spray can) delivering a low volume in a restricted area. Examples include control of grass around infrastructure such as signs, footpaths, rock walls and garden beds, and control of insect nests such as wasps. This may be part of a regular maintenance program, or unplanned reactive situations.

Stem injection: A method of applying an herbicide that involves drilling or cutting through the bark into the sapwood tissue in the trunks of woody weeds and trees and immediately placing herbicide into the hole or cut. The aim is to reach the sapwood layer just under the bark (the cambium growth layer), which will transport the chemical throughout the plant.

1.0 Introduction

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009*. The plan sets out how Tweed Shire Council (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.

This plan acknowledges the community's basic right to know about pesticide applications made in public places owned by, or under the control of, Council. Notification allows the community the opportunity to make their own decisions about their contact with pesticides and to let people choose to reduce their exposure to pesticides if they wish. Notification is one aspect to Council's overall approach to pesticide use which aims to ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

Pesticides include a range of substances used to destroy, suppress or alter the life cycle of any pest. More specifically, pesticides control pest organisms by physically, chemically or biologically interfering with their metabolism or normal behaviour. A pesticide can be a naturally derived or synthetically produced substance. A pesticide can also be an organism. Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides, bactericides, fungicides, rodenticides, baits, lures and repellents. For more detailed information, including the legal definition of pesticides under the *Pesticides Act 1999*, see the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) webpage [*What are pesticides and how do they work?*](#)

Tweed Shire Council and its contractors use a range of pesticides in public spaces to protect and maintain community, natural and built assets for which it is responsible, for example:

- Herbicides for weed control
 - to maintain parks and sports fields,
 - to maintain sight lines on road sides for motorist safety and
 - to maintain and improve biodiversity in natural areas/bushland.
- Insecticides and fungicides to control nuisance insects and fungi
 - to maintain the amenity and functionality of parks, gardens and sports fields
 - to prevent public nuisance and health and safety issues
 - to maintain building integrity
- Rodenticides and baits for vertebrate pest control (e.g. wild dogs and foxes)
 - to prevent public health and safety issues
 - to maintain and improve biodiversity.

The type of pesticide and frequency of application varies for different places and target pest species. A comprehensive list of relevant public spaces and pesticide use is provided in Section 2 of this plan.

2.0 Public places covered by this plan

Tweed Shire Council proposes to use, or allow the use of, pesticides in the following specific use areas of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Tweed Shire:

- Parks and garden beds
- Nurseries
- Playgrounds
- Picnic tables and park shelters
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Cricket wickets
- Swimming pools
- Coastal dunes, natural areas and bushland
- Rivers, foreshores, canals and reservoirs
- Drains and drainage systems
- Wetlands
- Cemeteries

- Tweed Coast Holiday Parks
- Road verges, road reserves, laneways, pathways and easements accessible to the public
- Landfill/waste management sites.

This plan also provides information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors and immediate exteriors of the following Council public buildings:

- Council civic centres and auditoriums
- Amenity buildings
- Public libraries
- Community halls/centres
- Sports facility buildings and sports stands.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticides used in each of these specific use areas is summarised in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Public places, regular user groups and types of pesticide uses within the Tweed Shire

| Specific use areas of Council public land | Regular user groups | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use |
|---|--|--|--|
| Parks and garden beds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers, picnickers) • All ages and social groups | Very high to low - use varies significantly amongst individuals and groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide • Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants or wasp nests) • Spot application of fungicide (garden beds) • Rodenticide – irregular treatment, as required |
| Nurseries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community • Regular customers (e.g. Landcare groups & garden clubs) | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide • Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants, mites or wasp nests) • Spot application of fungicide • Pindone baits or warren fumigation for rabbits • Fox den fumigation |
| Playgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and their carers | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of selective and non-selective herbicides – limited use only • Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants or wasp nests) |
| Picnic tables and park shelters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional spot application of selective and non-selective herbicide. • Occasional spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants or wasp nests) |

| Specific use areas of Council public land | Regular user groups | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use |
|---|---|--|---|
| Sports fields | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • General sports participants • Informal use by all ages | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide • Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants or wasp nests) • Broadscale application of selective herbicide • Rodenticide – irregular treatment, as required • Pindone baits or warren fumigation for rabbits |
| Turf cricket wickets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket players, generally young adults • Informal use, generally children | Varies from intensive (match days), otherwise very low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of selective herbicides • Spot applications of fungicides • Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants) |
| Swimming pools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • General community • Formal & informal training (all ages) | High (seasonal) to moderate (off-season) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide • Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants, spiders or wasp nests) • Broadscale application of selective herbicide • Chlorine is regularly used to control water quality and as a disinfectant |
| Coastal dunes, natural areas and bushland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General beach users • Landcare and Dunecare groups • Informal bushwalkers • Nature observers | Low, other than adjacent to facilities, paths or trails. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide • Broadscale (aerial) herbicide spray – glyphosate over selected coastal dune areas • Stem injection and spot application of insecticide targeting Pandanus planthopper • Rodenticide – irregular treatment, as required • Vertebrate baits - irregular application of poison baits (e.g. 1080 baits for wild dogs and foxes, Pindone baits for rabbits), as required • Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens |

| Specific use areas of Council public land | Regular user groups | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use |
|--|---|--|---|
| Rivers, foreshores, reservoirs and canal estates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public recreation users (e.g. fishers, swimmers, boaters and pedestrians) Primarily local residents in canal estates | Low generally but high use in parks adjoining foreshore | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide Broadscale application of insecticide in canal estates (biting midges). Rodenticide – regular treatment in rock walls or as required Warren fumigation for rabbits |
| Drains and drainage systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No regular users, other than in formal parks Nature observers | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide Broadscale application of non-selective herbicide (water weeds) Rodenticide – irregular treatment, as required Warren fumigation for rabbits Fox den fumigation |
| Wetlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No regular users Nature observers | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide Broadscale application of insecticide (mosquitoes) |
| Cemeteries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General community All ages and social groups | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants or wasp nests) Fungicide (garden beds) Rodenticide – irregular treatment, as required Pindone baits or warren fumigation for rabbits Fox den fumigation |
| Tweed Coast Holiday Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families Small groups of all ages Permanent residents | High (permanent residents) – moderate (seasonally dependant) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide Spot application of insecticides (e.g. ants or wasp nests) Broadscale application of selective herbicide Spot applications of fungicide (garden beds) Rodenticide – irregular treatment, as required Pindone baits or warren fumigation for rabbits |

| Specific use areas of Council public land | Regular user groups | Level of use of public place | Type of pesticide use |
|---|--|---|---|
| Road verges, road reserves, lanes, paths & easements accessible to the public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General community using footpaths | Low in rural areas, moderate to high in urban areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide Spot application of insecticide – (e.g. wasp nest) Broadscale application of selective herbicides |
| Landfill or waste disposal sites (public areas only) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General community | Low (residents) to moderate (builders / gardeners regularly disposing of waste) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide Broadscale application of selective insecticide (flies) Rodenticide – irregular treatment, as required |
| Council public buildings (e.g. libraries, civic centres & auditoriums, community halls & amenities buildings) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General community Special interest groups (e.g. residents associations, sports, wellbeing and performing arts groups) | <p>High - moderate (varies significantly amongst individuals)</p> <p>N.B. Pesticide application in public buildings is typically carried out outside of opening hours or when buildings are closed to the public.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot application of residual insecticides, typically along wall skirting, to control cockroaches, silverfish and spiders. Gel baiting inside kitchen cupboards for cockroaches, as required. Rodent control typically by the use of snap traps (building interiors) and lockable marked bait stations (around the building exterior). |

3.0 Notification arrangements

This section describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places adjacent to public places.

3.1 General notification arrangements

Notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment of:

- The type of pesticide used.
- The level of use of public places where pesticides may be used.
- The extent to which members of the public most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly) are likely to use these areas regularly.
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in the areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (e.g. picnic areas where food is consumed, sporting and other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground).
- Proximity to sensitive places.
- The public notification requirements of Pesticide Control Orders (e.g. *Pesticide Control 1080 Liquid Concentrate and Bait Products Order 2010* and *Pesticide Control Pindone Products Order 2010*).

Notice of pesticide use will be provided through a combination of:

- Signs.
- Council's website – which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places.
- Notification in the Tweed Link Newspaper.
- Letters, fax or emails.
- Personal contact through phone calls and / or door-knocking.

Generally, notice of pesticide use will be provided in the ways described below. Arrangements for specific use areas of public space are also listed in the following sections. Notification arrangements for sensitive places are also described below.

It is noted that pesticide applications depend on suitable weather conditions. Where prior notification is provided, weather conditions can influence the actual application dates.

3.2 Spot and directed applications of pesticide associated with regular maintenance

For spot and directed applications of pesticide during regular maintenance, no prior notification will be provided. General notification is hereby provided through this plan, and through a similar statement on Council's website. Sensitive places and Do Not Spray Registered properties would not be notified for this targeted type of application however pesticide use adjacent to these places would be avoided where possible.

3.3 Broadscale pesticide applications

Prior notice of scheduled broadscale pesticide applications will be provided on Council's website and in the local Tweed Link Newspaper newspaper. Sensitive places and Do Not Spray registered properties within 200m of broadscale applications would be given prior notification.

3.4 Unplanned or emergency pesticide applications

Unplanned or emergency pesticide applications are occasionally required. Prior notification arrangements specified in this plan may not be adhered to under unplanned or emergency situations. However, sensitive places and Do Not Spray registered properties adjacent the site would be notified of broadscale applications by phone calls or doorknocks, at least 30 minutes prior to application, as would groups licensed to use the site such as sporting clubs on a sports field.

Council may occasionally be required to undertake pest control in unexpected places not covered by this plan. In these instances notification needs will be assessed according to the pesticide used, application method and level of use of that area. Examples can include:

- Termite nests on public land can require treatment if private or public infrastructure is threatened. This is rare but may occur on any category of public land.
- Unspecified vertebrate pest control. This is very rare but may be required.

3.5 Notification arrangements for specific use areas of public land

Notification arrangements are in place for specific use areas of public land as described below. These are based on factors such as the pesticide being applied, the method of application and the nature and frequency of use by members of the public. For example, drains and bushland have a much lower public use than managed parks. In managed parks, access to garden beds is much less than on mown grass areas.

Parks and garden beds

For parks and garden beds, notification procedures for the following pesticide uses will apply:

- Bindii and broadleaf weeds (broadscale selective herbicide) applications are scheduled and generally occur once per year. Notification procedures include:
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and on Council Website.
 - Temporary signs displayed during application and for a minimum of one hour afterwards.
 - Letter of notification to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' within 200m of the park.
- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in very low use areas that can't be mown (e.g. steep or inaccessible places).
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Control of insects in garden beds (spot application of selective insecticide).
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of one hour afterwards.
- Ant control (broadscale application). This is typically a rare occurrence.
 - Prior notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and on Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Nurseries

- Regular spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide, insecticide and fungicide is necessary for on-going weed control and disease management of plant stock, greenhouses and general nursery grounds (including driveway, carpark and around sheds).
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - General notification is hereby provided through this plan, and through a similar statement on Council's website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.
- Pindone baiting for rabbit control may be required, though is typically a rare occurrence. Notification for Pindone baiting will be as follows:
 - At least three days' notice is given to and received by all adjoining neighbours before laying Pindone baits. Notification will be given by mail.
 - Notices will be erected specifying the target animal and date of poison application immediately before Pindone poisoning operations starts. These notices will remain up for at least four weeks and will be placed at:
 - All entrances to the property

- All entrances to the actual poisoning site, and
- At the extremities of property boundaries fronting a public thoroughfare.
- Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
- Temporary signs will be displayed during application.
- Prior notification by letter to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' that border the site.
- Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens may be required.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are high use areas favoured by young children. Council aims to minimise pesticide use around playgrounds by using manual weed control methods (brush-cutting, hand pulling) where possible. An exception is sand based softfall areas, where spot application of a non-selective herbicide is necessary to control weeds infesting the softfall. Council is phasing out sand softfall in favour of pine bark, which allows manual weed control.

Where required, Council will continue to undertake spot applications of pesticides as described below. As these are all very small doses in limited areas, no special notification procedures are proposed.

- Spot application of selective and non-selective herbicide in sand based playground softfall to treat small infestations, as required.
- Ant control is occasionally undertaken through spot application of an insecticide. Infestations in small areas are treated as required.
- Insect nests (e.g. wasps) are treated through spot application of an insecticide, as required.

Picnic tables and park shelters

Picnic tables and park shelters are high use areas associated with food consumption. Council aims to minimise pesticide use around picnic tables and shelters by using manual weed control methods (e.g. brush-cutting, hand pulling) where possible.

Where required, Council will continue to undertake spot applications of pesticides as described below. As these are all very small doses in limited areas, no special notification procedures are proposed.

- Bindii control through spot application of a selective herbicide. Minor infestations in small areas are treated as required.
- Ant control is occasionally undertaken through spot application of an insecticide. Infestations in small areas are treated as required.
- Insect nests (e.g. wasps) are treated through spot application of an insecticide, as required.

Sports fields

For sporting fields and ovals, notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Broadscale selective herbicide applications to treat Bindii and broadleaf weeds are scheduled and generally occur once per year. Notification procedures will include:
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of one hour afterwards.
 - Letter of notification to sports clubs licensed to use the field.
 - Letter of notification to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' within 200m of the fields.
- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in very low use areas that can't be mown (e.g. steep or inaccessible places). This is unusual for sports fields and would only apply to specific places separate from the sports field area.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Ant control (broadscale selective insecticide). This is typically a rare occurrence.
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.
 - Prior notification by letter to sports clubs licensed to use the field.
 - Prior notification by letter to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' within 200m of the park.
- Pindone baiting for rabbit control may be required, though is typically a rare occurrence. Notification for Pindone baiting will be as follows:
 - At least three days' notice is given to and received by all adjoining neighbours before laying Pindone baits. Notification will be given by mail.
 - Notices will be erected specifying the target animal and date of poison application immediately before Pindone poisoning operations starts. These notices will remain up for at least four weeks and will be placed at:
 - All entrances to the property
 - All entrances to the actual poisoning site, and
 - At the extremities of property boundaries fronting a public thoroughfare.
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.
 - Prior notification by letter to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' that border the field.
- Rabbit warren fumigation may be utilised in some situations though this is typically a rare occurrence.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Cricket wickets (turf)

Cricket wickets are areas of relatively intensive pesticide use. Main pesticide uses are selective herbicides to treat broadleaf weeds and fungicides to treat fungal infection. The following notification procedures will apply:

- Wicket areas fenced off when not in use and during maintenance.
- Permanent statement on Council website notifying of regular pesticide use for maintenance.

Swimming pools

Pesticide applications typically occur outside the swimming season when the facility is closed to the public and hence no notification will be provided. This includes control of bindii (broadscale selective herbicide) and ants (broadscale insecticide). Chlorine is regularly used as a disinfectant to treat swimming pool water and no notification will be provided other than through this plan.

Should unscheduled pesticide applications be required during the swimming season, the following notification procedures will apply:

- Spot and directed applications of a selective and non-selective herbicide for treatment of bindii and other nuisance weeds, and spot applications of selective insecticide for treatment of ants.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs placed at main entrance to swimming pool.

Coastal dunes, natural areas and bushland

Coastal dunes are managed as natural areas. Public use is not encouraged other than beach access paths. Notification procedures for the following pesticide uses will apply:

- Bitou bush control through aerial application of non-selective herbicide on selected areas of coastal dunes only. This is typically a rare occurrence as the Bitou Bush infestations along the coastal dunes are nowadays largely under control and maintained with spot spraying of non-selective herbicide. However, if required, aerial applications would be undertaken in accordance with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's (formerly DEC) 'Best Practice Guidelines for Aerial Spraying of Bitou Bush in NSW (2006)'. Notification methods would include:
 - Prior notification in Tweed Link Newspaper.
 - General media release on the day of application.
 - Prior signage on roadways in the area.
 - Signs placed at access points prior to, and on the day of, application.
 - Notification provided to schools in the area.
 - Staff on the ground managing public access to the area.
- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide may be undertaken to control invasive weeds and encourage native regeneration in bushland and coastal dunes.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Pandanus trees can become infected with a planthopper insect. Infected trees are treated by stem injection using a systemic insecticide (Imadacloprid), with occasional restricted foliar application.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a reactive treatment applied when trees are infected.
 - For foliar applications only, operator to remain on site until the product dries.
- Rodent control may be undertaken in areas where refuse accumulates and rodents become active. Application is through 'bait boxes' or bait inserted deep in rock walls or similar locations where they cannot be accessed.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Bait boxes are signposted.
- Control of wild dogs and foxes is a legislative requirement in NSW. Notification will be undertaken in accordance with the *Pesticide Control (1080 Liquid Concentrate and Bait Products) Order*. Notification requirements include:
 - Notice to the occupier, manager or authorised agent of every property which has a property boundary within one kilometre of a baiting location a minimum of three days prior to laying 1080 wild dog baits.
 - Prior notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and/or other local newspaper.
 - Signs placed at all access points to the property, to remain up for a minimum of four (4) weeks after the last day of baiting. Notices must be placed:

- at every entry to the baiting location; and
 - at the main entrance to a private property or holding where baiting is undertaken; and
 - at up to five (5) kilometre intervals along all public thoroughfares which border or pass through the baiting location.
- The notices must specify the following:
 - that 1080 wild dog baits are being laid on this property; and
 - the dates on which 1080 wild dog baits are first laid or the dates between which baits will be laid; and
 - contact details of the person who will lay the 1080 wild dog baits; and
 - a warning that non-target animals may be affected.
- Where baiting programs are, ongoing notification must be given every six (6) months.
- Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens may be required.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Rivers, foreshores, reservoirs and canal estates

Rivers, foreshores, reservoirs and canals are areas of relatively low pesticide use. Notification procedures for the following pesticide uses will apply:

- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide may be undertaken in areas that can't be mown (e.g. steep or inaccessible places) and/or to control invasive weeds and encourage native regeneration in riparian areas.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Broadscale non-selective insecticide in canal estates to control biting midges. This is a scheduled operation generally occurring twice each year (July and December).
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Aquatic weeds are controlled when required in waterways, reservoirs and canals. Far North Coast Weeds undertake aquatic weed control in the waterways and canals and TSC engage a contractor to undertake aquatic weed control within the water supply reservoirs.
 - Notification for pesticide use in waterways and canals is in accordance with the Far North Coast Weeds Pesticide Use Notification Plan.
 - Notification for pesticide use in water supply reservoirs is as follows:
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Rodents (rats) in rock walls or similar places where refuse can accumulate may require treatment. Application is through 'bait boxes' or bait inserted deep in rock walls where they cannot be accessed.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Bait boxes are signposted.
- Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens may be required.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Drains and drainage systems

Drains and drainage systems are generally low use areas, other than where they also function as a public park. Notification procedures for the following pesticide uses will apply:

- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide is undertaken to control weeds and grasses in concrete drains or areas where no other maintenance access is practical.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Aquatic weeds are controlled when required in drainage systems. This is undertaken by Far North Coast Weeds.
 - Notification is in accordance with the Far North Coast Weeds Pesticide Use Notification Plan.
- Mosquito larvae are controlled through broadscale application of a selective insecticide. Application is reactive to conditions that encourage mosquito development and therefore frequency varies.
 - No general prior notice can be given as the activity is weather and condition dependant.
 - A notification list is maintained for chemically sensitive individuals. Those on the list are contacted by telephone, generally the day before or on the day of application.
- Rodents (rats) in rock walls or similar places where refuse can accumulate may require treatment. Application is through 'bait boxes' or bait inserted deep in rock walls where they cannot be accessed.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Bait boxes are signposted.
- Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens may be required.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Wetlands

Wetlands are low-lying areas which are frequently inundated and can be breeding areas for mosquitoes. Notification procedures for the following pesticide uses will apply:

- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide may be undertaken to control invasive weeds and encourage native regeneration in wetlands.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Mosquito larvae are controlled through broadscale application of a selective insecticide. Application is reactive to conditions that encourage mosquito development and frequency therefore varies.
 - No general prior notice can be given as the activity is weather and condition dependant.
 - A notification list is maintained for chemically sensitive individuals. Those on the list are contacted by telephone, generally the day before or on the day of application.

Cemeteries

For cemeteries, notification procedures for the following pesticide uses will apply:

- Broadscale selective herbicide applications to treat Bindii and broadleaf weeds are scheduled and generally occur once per year. Notification procedures will include:
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of one hour afterwards.
 - Letter of notification to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' within 200m of the fields.
- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide may be undertaken in areas that can't be mown (e.g. steep or inaccessible places) and/or to control invasive weeds and encourage native regeneration.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Pindone baiting for rabbit control may be required, though is typically a rare occurrence. Notification for Pindone baiting will be as follows:
 - At least three days' notice is given to and received by all adjoining neighbours before laying Pindone baits. Notification will be given by mail.
 - Notices will be erected specifying the target animal and date of poison application immediately before Pindone poisoning operations starts. These notices will remain up for at least four weeks and will be placed at:
 - All entrances to the property
 - All entrances to the actual poisoning site, and
 - At the extremities of property boundaries fronting a public thoroughfare.
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.
 - Prior notification by letter to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' that border the site.
- Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens may be required.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Tweed Coast Holiday Parks

Notification procedures for the following pesticides uses within Tweed Coast Holiday Parks will apply:

- Broadscale selective herbicide applications to treat Bindii and broadleaf weeds are scheduled and generally occur once per year. Notification procedures will include:
 - Notices displayed at Holiday Park Office, in recreational areas, amenities, laundries and in on-site accommodation five days prior to pesticide application.
 - Letter to permanent residents giving at least five days prior notice.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of one hour afterwards.
 - Letter of notification to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' within 200m of the fields.
- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide may be undertaken in areas that can't be mown (e.g. steep or inaccessible places) and/or to control invasive weeds and encourage native regeneration.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Ant control is occasionally undertaken through broadscale application of selective insecticides. This is a scheduled program typically occurring once per year. Notification procedures will include:
 - Notices displayed at Holiday Park Office, in recreational areas, amenities, laundries and in on-site accommodation five days prior to pesticide application.

- Letter to permanent residents giving at least five days prior notice.
- Temporary signs will be displayed during application.
- Letter of notification to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' within 200m of the fields.
- Rodents require control, particularly in places where refuse can accumulate. Application is through 'bait boxes' or bait inserted deep in rock walls where they cannot be accessed. These are generally placed in the dunal or bushland areas adjacent to the holiday park.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Bait boxes are signposted.
 - Permanent signs may be considered on boundary of park adjacent to regular treatment locations.
- Pindone baiting for rabbit control may be required, though is typically a rare occurrence. Notification for Pindone baiting will be as follows:
 - At least three days' notice is given to and received by all adjoining neighbours before laying Pindone baits. Notification will be given by mail.
 - Notices will be erected specifying the target animal and date of poison application immediately before Pindone poisoning operations starts. These notices will remain up for at least four weeks and will be placed at:
 - All entrances to the property
 - All entrances to the actual poisoning site, and
 - At the extremities of property boundaries fronting a public thoroughfare.
 - Notification in Tweed Link Newspaper and Council Website.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.
 - Prior notification by letter to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' that border the site.
- Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens may be required.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Road verges, road reserves, laneways, pathways and easements accessible to the public

On roadsides and road reserves, notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide is used to control weeds and grasses adjacent to footpaths, kerbs and gutters, guideposts, signposts, headwalls and other infrastructure.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a regular, ongoing practice.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during applications.
- Spot and directed application of selective and non-selective herbicide may be undertaken in areas that can't be mown (e.g. steep or inaccessible places) and/or to control invasive weeds and encourage native regeneration.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Fumigation of fox dens and rabbit warrens may be required.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application.

Landfill and waste disposal sites

For publicly accessible landfill sites the following notification procedures apply:

- For control of weeds and grasses, both spot and directed applications of selective and non-selective herbicide may be used.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a regular, ongoing practice.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- For control of flying insects (e.g. flies), a broadscale application of insecticide is occasionally undertaken. Council aims to minimise such insecticide use through management techniques such as separating, categorising and covering waste. Insecticide application is only undertaken when required, which is generally an emergent situation where no prior notification can be provided.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a reactive treatment applied when required.
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Rodents require control, particularly in places where refuse can accumulate. Application is through 'bait boxes'. These are generally placed in the bushland areas adjacent to the landfill.
 - No prior notification will be provided.
 - Bait boxes are signposted.

Council public buildings

For Council-owned public buildings the following pesticide notification procedures apply:

- For control of nuisance insects (e.g. cockroaches, silverfish and spiders) spot spray application of residual insecticides may be used.
 - This type of pesticide application in public buildings is typically carried out outside of opening hours or when buildings are closed to the public.
- Gel baiting for cockroaches is undertaken inside kitchen cupboards, as required.
- Rodents require control, particularly in places where refuse can accumulate. Application is through the use of snap traps within building interiors and lockable marked bait stations around the exterior façade of the buildings.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is regular and ongoing practice.
 - Bait boxes are signposted.

3.6 Special measures for sensitive places²

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places within 200 meters of schools, childcare centres, hospitals and all other 'sensitive places' will occur in the following ways:

- Prior notification will be provided for all scheduled broadscale applications (bindii and broadleaf weeds, ants). Notification will be provided through letters and phone calls.
- If a broadscale pesticide application is required in an emergency situation, notification will be provided by phone calls or doorknocks at least 30 minutes prior to the event.
- Minimise other herbicides applications adjacent to the boundary of such locations. This will be achieved by through careful applications of spot and directed methods of pesticide application.

Sensitive places include properties on Tweed Shire Council's Pesticide Sensitivity (Do Not Spray) Register (refer to Section 3.7 for more information).

² As defined by Clause 18 of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 – refer to the Definitions section at the beginning of this document.

3.7 Pesticide sensitivity (Do Not Spray) register

Tweed Shire Council maintains a Pesticide Sensitivity (Do Not Spray) Register which is updated when property owners notify Council that they do not wish for their property boundary to be sprayed with pesticides due to reasons such as organic farming or medical conditions.

The following special arrangements are in place for properties listed on the register. Council will minimise pesticide application adjacent to such locations, however cannot guarantee that no pesticide applications will occur. Where practical Council will:

- Provide prior notification for all scheduled broadscale applications (bindii and broadleaf weeds, ants) within 200m of such locations.
- If a broadscale pesticide application is required in an emergency situation, notification will be provided by phone calls or doorknocks at least 30 minutes prior to the event.
- Minimise other herbicides applications adjacent to the boundary of such locations. This will be achieved by through careful applications of spot and directed methods of herbicide application.

Residents wishing to be advised of spraying for mosquito larvae nearby can also apply for inclusion on the Pesticide Notification Register. In this instance, telephone calls are made the day before, or on the day of application.

To request inclusion onto the Pesticide Sensitivity Register, members of the public can fill out and submit a Pesticide Sensitivity Notification Form which can be obtained from the Council's website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au or the Customer Service Centre at either the Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads Civic Centres or by calling 02 6670 2400.

It is noted that inclusion on the register typically results in a reduction in the frequency of maintenance works along the public land boundary with registered properties and, as such, residents on the register are expected to accept more vegetative regrowth between maintenance events or adopt more responsibility for undertaking grass / weed maintenance by other means (e.g. mechanical removal).

3.8 Pesticide contractors, lessees of public places and other special arrangements

Where Tweed Shire uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, the same notification requirements apply.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on land that remains a public place, the same notification requirements apply.

If special arrangements are made whereby an organization or individual (other than contractors or lessees of public places) undertake pesticide applications on a public place, the same notification requirements apply, with the exception of organisations with their own Pesticide Use Notification Plan (e.g. Far North Coast Weeds).

4.0 What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the Pesticides Regulation 2009, notice of pesticide use must include **all** of the following information:

- The full product name of the pesticide to be used.
- The purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated.
- The proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use.
- The place where the pesticide is to be used.
- Contact telephone number and email address of the Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice.
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

As already noted, Council's website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places and a link to this notification plan.

5.0 How the community will be informed of this plan

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

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing, during office hours, free of charge, at:
 - Murwillumbah Civic Centre, Tumbulgum Rd, Murwillumbah.
 - Tweed Heads Civic Centre, Brett St, Tweed Heads.
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Council website - www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/
- Placing a notice in the Tweed Link Newspaper, a weekly newsletter delivered to all residences in the shire.
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.
- Including a leaflet in the annual rates notice advising residents of the plan and where they can view a copy of it.

6.0 Future reviews of this plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every five years. The review will include:

- A report on the progress of implementing the plan.
- Placing the plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes, and calling for public submissions.
- In light of the public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7.0 Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of the pesticide applications in public places should access Council's website at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au, visit one of the Council offices at Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah or Brett Street, Tweed Heads, or call the customer service centre on 02 6670 2400.

References

APVMA (2015). *Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website – Definitions of terms*. Accessed at: <http://apvma.gov.au/definition-of-terms> . Accessed on 16 November 2015.

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NSW EPA (2013b). *Pesticide Use Notification Plan for Outdoor Public Places – A Template for Local Councils*. State of NSW and Environment Protection Authority, Sydney, October 2013.

NSW EPA (2013c). *Pesticide Use Notification Plan for Outdoor Public Places – An Example for Local Councils*. State of NSW and Environment Protection Authority, Sydney, October 2013.



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