

# PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN



**Corowa Shire**

---

*...the choice*

# PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

The plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council to public places that it owns or controls.

The plan describes:

- what public places are covered by the plan
- who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use
- how and when Council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (i.e. what notification arrangements will be used)
- how the community can access this plan and get more information about Council's notification arrangements
- how future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

This plan forms a component of Council's integrated pest management policy. This policy states that Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to control 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 1–3 times per year for sports fields, 5 -10 times per year for parks and gardens and twice yearly for public thoroughfares. Programmed pesticide application for noxious weed control occurs throughout the year, subject to seasonal condition variations.

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 fungicides, rodenticides, and medium to large vertebrate baits. Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Ian Singleton on 02 6033 8952 or by visiting the website [www.corowa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au).

## 2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Corowa Shire Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Corowa Shire Council Area

- Public gardens
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Cemeteries
- Rural reserves
- Urban reserves
- Wetlands under Council control
- Public land owned or controlled by the Corowa Shire Council, including:
  - Rural road verges and reserves
  - Urban streets and roads
  - Laneways and pathways
  - Easements accessible to the public
  - Drains
  - Swimming Centres and amenities
- Waste Disposal Depots
- Crown land held in trust by Council

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, libraries, community halls/centres and childcare facilities.

Information relating to the location of these public access areas will be made available for viewing at Council Chambers building, 233 Honour Avenue during normal business hours

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarised 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.

Public places owned or controlled by Council (categories)	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide Use
<b>a) Public parks and gardens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young families</li> <li>Elderly people</li> <li>General recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, bush walkers, cyclists picnickers)</li> <li>Visitors to area</li> </ul>	Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>broadscale insecticides</li> <li>fungicide (usually garden beds)</li> <li>spray termiticides, ant control</li> <li>bait termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>b) Playgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children groups</li> <li>Young families</li> <li>Visitors to area</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>spray ant control</li> <li>bait ant control</li> </ul>
<b>c) Picnic areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families</li> <li>Other social groups (e.g. ethnic, religious groups)</li> <li>Visitors to area</li> </ul>	High (Particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>bait rodenticides</li> <li>fungicide (usually garden beds)</li> <li>spray termiticides</li> <li>spray ant control</li> <li>bait termiticides</li> <li>bait ant control</li> </ul>
<b>d) Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>School sports groups</li> <li>General recreational users groups (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers)</li> </ul>	High Subject to sporting activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>broadscale insecticides</li> <li>spray of bait termiticides on facilities</li> <li>rodenticides near facilities</li> </ul>
<b>e) Cemeteries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families</li> <li>Funeral attendees</li> </ul>	Low to High subject to funeral occurrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>fungicide (usually garden beds)</li> <li>spray ant control</li> <li>bait ant control</li> </ul>
<b>f) Rural reserves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>General residents</li> <li>Young families</li> <li>Campers</li> <li>Cyclists</li> <li>Visitors to area</li> </ul>	High Subject to seasonal variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>bait and spray insecticide ant control</li> <li>large to medium vertebrate baiting</li> </ul>

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide Use
<b>g) Urban reserves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents and visitors to the area</li> <li>Campers/cyclist</li> <li>Joggers/dog-wakers</li> <li>Anglers</li> </ul>	High subject to seasonal variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>spray and bait insecticide for ant control</li> </ul>
<b>h) Council laneways and pathways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents</li> <li>People who work in the area</li> <li>Visitors to the area</li> </ul>	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>bait ant control</li> </ul>
<b>i) Rural road shoulders, verges and road reserves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural land holders</li> <li>General public /motorists</li> <li>Stock managers</li> <li>State Government contractors</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides/woody weed stem injection</li> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>large to medium vertebrate baiting</li> </ul>
<b>j) Urban roads, streets and roadside furniture. (e.g. culverts, curb &amp; channelling, footpaths and trees)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road</li> <li>General recreational users (joggers, dog-walkers)</li> </ul>	Medium to high for urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spray and bait ant control</li> <li>spray and bait termiticides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> </ul>
<b>k) Easements accessible to the public (specifically; road, water, sewer, electricity)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents and people who work in the area</li> </ul>	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>spray and bait termiticides</li> <li>bait ant control</li> <li>.</li> </ul>
<b>l) Council drains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents living adjacent to a drain;</li> <li>Local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain</li> </ul>	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>spot herbicides</li> </ul>
<b>m) Swimming Centre Buildings and Grounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents and visitors to area</li> <li>Sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>School sports groups</li> </ul>	High Depending on seasonal variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>spray termiticides, ant control</li> <li>bait termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>n) Waste Disposal Depots</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents</li> <li>Visitors to the area</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>spray and bait ant control</li> <li>bait rodenticides</li> <li>large to medium vertebrate baiting</li> </ul>

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide Use
<b>o) Wetlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents and visitors to area</li> <li>General recreational users groups</li> <li>School groups</li> <li>Bird observation groups</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>spray and bait ant control</li> <li>large to medium vertebrate baiting</li> </ul>
<b>p) Interiors of Public Buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly)</li> <li>Young children and their carers (childcare facilities)</li> <li>Parents groups /playgroups</li> <li>Community associations</li> <li>Church groups</li> <li>General members of the public</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>bait rodenticides</li> <li>spray termiticides</li> <li>spray ant control</li> <li>bait termiticides</li> <li>bait ant control</li> </ul>
<b>q) Crown land in trust to Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campers</li> <li>Bushwalkers</li> <li>Recreation users e.g. fishing, bike riding, swimming.</li> </ul>	Low to High depending on seasonal variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spot herbicides</li> <li>spot insecticides</li> <li>broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>bait and spray insecticide ant control</li> <li>large to medium vertebrate baiting</li> </ul>

### 3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are based on 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 and 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)
- type of pesticide used.

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

- signs

- information on Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places) and will be publicised in rate notices;
- letters
- fax and email
- letterbox drops
- door knocking
- phone contact.

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan.

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 this 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.

#### a) Outdoor recreation areas

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

- public parks and gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities
- cemeteries.

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance at the time of application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- nematodes
- spray termiticides and ant control
- bait termiticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- bait rodenticide (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places', under subsection d) Special measures for sensitive places) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

For **playgrounds and picnic areas** only, prior notice will be extended to 24 hours by placing signs for all the above pesticide uses. For these areas only, signs will also be placed for at least 24 hours after spot herbicide or insecticide use or placement of ant control baits.

For **sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities**, sporting groups and occupiers of adjacent sensitive places who register interest with Council can also have notice of the above pesticide uses faxed or emailed at least 48 hours prior to application.

In these outdoor recreation areas, information on the forward program for broad-scale pesticides use will be posted on Council's website every 3 months, information on the forward program for use of pesticide will also be included in Council's weekly Snippets column in the Corowa Free Press and Yarrawonga Chronicle published every week.

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

- spot herbicides
- spot insecticides
- bait ant control.

#### **b) Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public**

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following categories of public place owned or controlled by Corowa Shire:

- laneways, pathway, footpaths and roadside furniture
- road shoulders, verges and road reserves
- road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public
- drains.

In these public places, information on the forward program for broad-scale pesticide use will be posted on Council's website every 3 months, information on the forward program for use of pesticide will also be included in Council's weekly Snippets column in the Corowa Free Press and Yarrawonga Chronicle published every week.

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

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

#### **c) Certain Council buildings**

For pesticide use in Council chambers, Council owned libraries, community halls and centres and childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- spot use of insecticides
- bait rodenticides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control.

Information for the general community will be posted on Council's web-site every 3 months and published in Council's weekly Snippets column about the above applications and on the following pesticide uses in the above Council buildings:

- bait termiticides
- bait ant control

In addition, 5 days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in Council childcare facilities will be given to operators of the facilities, where practicable the programmed use of pesticides in Council buildings will be carried out when the building is unoccupied.

#### **d) 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 (EPA) – now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

And

- Organic farming enterprises.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public place have already been noted.

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places next to sensitive places, Council will provide concurrent notice shortly before use to the occupier by phone, door-knock or letterbox drop, depending upon what is practicable.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Council will organise a door-knock in that sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes before, so people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous pest infestation.

Programmed pesticide application for areas adjacent to school grounds shall be scheduled for school holiday periods, wherever this is practicable.

#### **e) 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 posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information via its Council info line 02 6033 8999, or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

#### **f) Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places**

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.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

#### **4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED**

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notices of pesticide use must include **all** 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 Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (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 with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address will be publicised in rate notices and by regular inclusions in Council's regular weekly block newspaper advertisement in local newspapers.

#### **5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN**

Council will advise residents of the plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's libraries and main office at 233 Honour Avenue, and Howlong Post Office during office hours
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at [www.corowa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au)
- placing a notice in the Border Mail, Council Snippets column of Corowa Free Press and Yarrowonga Chronicle and notice in the Howlong Grapevine
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

#### **6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN**

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years. The review will include:

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

## 7. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Mr. Ian Singleton

Job title: Technical Assistant Engineering

Council Address: PO Box 77, 233 Honour Avenue,

Corowa Shire Council, Corowa, NSW 2646

Phone: 02 6033 8952

Fax, 02 6033 3317

Email: [ian.singleton@corowa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ian.singleton@corowa.nsw.gov.au)

Or access the website: [www.corowa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au).

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1

List of generic pesticide used by Corowa Shire Council

Appendix 2

Register of interested parties requiring prior notification.

Appendix 3

Maps showing locations of Public Places referenced in this plan. (Website and Council Chambers office access only)

Appendix 4

List of designated sensitive places