

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

October 2025

PREPARED BY:

Parks & Natural Areas Division





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1. PURPOSE

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (Plan) informs the Sutherland Shire community about Council's application and use of pesticides within Council owned and managed public places across the local government area.

The use of pesticides within outdoor public places owned and managed by Sutherland Shire Council will be for the control of pest plants, animals, insects, fungi and/ or bacteria to maintain assets and provide services that meet legislative requirements and community expectations.

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Government's [Pesticides Regulation 2017 \(Regulation\)](#). Council ensures that pesticides are applied in a safe, responsible manner, without harm to the community or environment.

This Plan provides information on the following:

- Council's definition, use, and application of pesticides and in which locations.
- How and when Council will provide the community with information about its public place pesticide use and application.
- Council's pesticide notification methods and how the community can access information.
- Implementation, monitoring, and review of this Plan, including contact officer.

2. SCOPE

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, or intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, desiccant, or any substance intended to be used for such purposes. This definition encompasses a wide range of chemical and biological agents used to control pests in agriculture, horticulture, domestic, and industrial settings (Table 1).

General Classification of Pesticides	
Name	Description
Fungicides	Control, destroy, make ineffective or regulate the effect of a fungus; for example, fungicides are used to treat grey mould on grape vines and fruit trees.
Herbicides	Destroy, suppress, or prevent the spread of a weed and unwanted vegetation.
Insecticides	Destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by, an insect. Insecticides are used to control a wide variety of insect pests, including thrips, aphids, moths, fruit flies and locusts. In NSW, pesticides include products such as flea powders and liquids used externally on animals.
Bactericides	Destroy, suppress, or prevent the spread of bacteria. Examples are swimming pool chemicals containing chlorine, and products used to control black spot (bacterial blight) on garden plants or in orchards. Disinfectants are not considered pesticides.

Table 1: General classifications of pesticides

In addition to the legislations Section 5 definition, this Plan also includes the following pesticides:

- **Baits** - Are ready-prepared products or products which need to be mixed with a food to control a pest. This category includes baits prepared for the control of large animals, such as foxes and rabbits, and baits for insects, such as cockroaches and ants.
- **Lures** - Are chemicals that attract a pest to a pesticide for the purpose of its destruction. Solely food-based lures. Note cheese in a mousetrap is not considered a pesticide.
- **Rodenticides** - Are pesticides used specifically for controlling rodents such as mice and rats.
- **Repellents** - Repel rather than destroy a pest. Included in this category are personal insect repellents used to repel biting insects.
- **Biological Control agents** – Living organisms that control pests that are registered as pesticides. Calicivirus, for example, has been used to control rabbit numbers; and bacilli that function as biological insecticides have been used to control various insect larvae, such as moths and mosquitos.

3. LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS

In addition to the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*, Council has the following legislative obligations and regulatory bodies:

- **Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)** – Federal regulatory body governing the registration, supply, and use of pesticides.
- **Biodiversity and Conservation Act 2016** – Conservation and management of biodiversity and threatened species via strategies or plans that reduce the impact of invasive species on endangered ecological communities (EEC's) and threatened flora and fauna species.
- **Biosecurity Act 2015** – Prevention of exotic pests and diseases likely to harm Australia's agricultural systems, natural environment, community health and economy. For example, Bitou Bush, Boneseed, and Alligator weed.
- **Pesticides Act 1999** – Regulating the safe and correct use of pesticides to protect the environment and community through the NSW Environmental Protection Authority.
- **Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)** - Environmental protection and pollution prevention, which includes preventing environmental damage through correct handling, storage, and disposal of pesticides.
- **Work Health and Safety Act 2011** – Framework to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all workers at work and other people who might be affected by the work in the community.
- **Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)** - Management and use of water resources in NSW and may have implications for pesticide use, particularly concerning water quality protection.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Council uses an integrated management model (Figure 1), to identify, assess and mitigate the threat of weeds and pests within our local government area.

Our approach uses a mixture of physical, chemical, biological, and ecological control methods which ensures Council is meeting all legislative obligations.

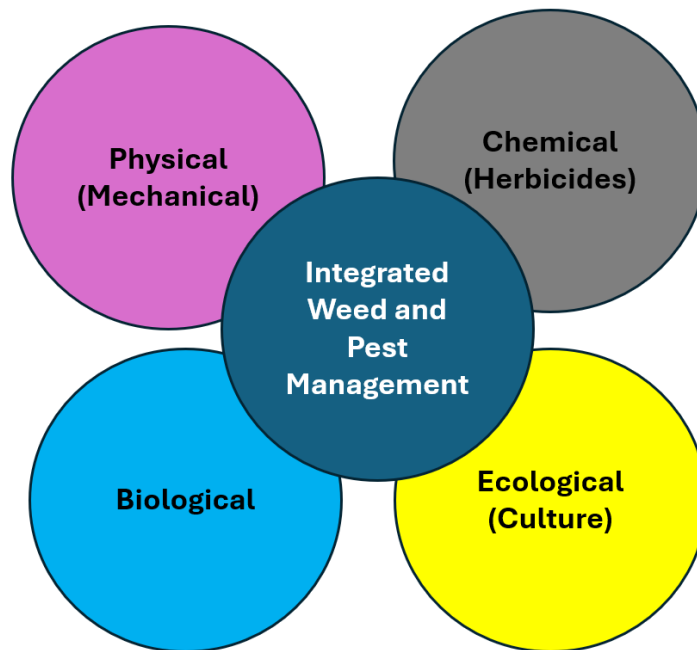


Figure 1: Integrated weed management model

Pesticide Application

If an application is determined to be the most efficient and practical control method, Council will comply with the *NSW Workcover Code of Practice Safe Use of Pesticides in Non-agriculture Workplaces (2006)*.

The Code of Practice promotes work safe and healthy practices to minimise detrimental effects on human health and the environment, it can be accessed via: [Safe use of pesticides including herbicides in non-agricultural workplaces: Code of Practice \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/pesticides-code-practice)

All persons who apply pesticides on behalf of Council are competent and accredited under the Australian Qualification Framework.

Herbicides - Containing Glyphosate:

An integral component of Council's pesticide application are herbicide products containing glyphosates, which are registered with the Federal Government. These are readily available for domestic use in home gardens through to commercial farming and agricultural activities.

Council continues to reduce its use of glyphosate-based products (including Roundup™) by transitioning to alternative weed control products and technologies where appropriate. Non glyphosate methods include:

- Pre-emergent products - non-glyphosate product control layers
- Natural plant based & bio-degradable products.
- New application equipment.
- Increased use of manual and mechanical techniques.
- Increased use of mulch to suppress weed growth.
- Ceased using high volume spray equipment in high profile areas.
- GPS mapping and targeted application.

Implementation of these alternatives have significantly reduced Council's use of glyphosate herbicides by 65% over the past decade (2014 to 2024). This reduction is in line with results from other best practice Local Government Areas (LGAs).

All risks related to ongoing pesticide management are currently within the organisations risk appetite, as outlined in Table 2.

No.	Risk Description	Inherent Risk Level	Target Risk Level	Current Risk Level
1	Environmental & Compliance Failure to respond to weeds and pests can result in environmental and compliance issues.	High	Medium	Low
2	Reputational Failure to meet the community's needs and expectations.	High	Medium	Low
3	Work Health & Safety Failure to follow the adopted work health and safety system when working with pesticides.	Extreme	Low	Low

Table 2: Council's pesticide risk management assessment

5. INTEGRATED WEED AND PEST MANAGEMENT

Council's weed and pest management programs implement best practice, humane, and cost-efficient methods that present a minimal risk to people, animals, and the environment. Where possible an integrated approach is adopted which uses a range of techniques including hand removal, mechanical removal, biocontrol, spot spraying, baits, and broad scale spraying.

Council's predominate application of pesticide are herbicides for the control of weeds. The frequency of programmed broad scale herbicide applications occurs as required for sports fields and reserves. Ad-hoc application occurs within parks and gardens, public thoroughfares, and road assets as required.

A list of priority weeds can be found at: [NSW Weed Wise](#).

On occasion Council uses insecticides to manage certain insect pests. 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 large vertebrate baits.

Council will endeavour to use manual weed control methods, therefore, adopting processes that encourage minimal use of pesticides and herbicides.

6. LOCATIONS

When identified as the most appropriate control method, the application of pesticides could be implemented in outdoor public places owned or managed by Council. These locations include:

- Beaches and dunes.
- Bushland reserves.
- Council drains and easements.
- Council's Nursery.
- Exterior of Council structures and facilities.
- Golf courses.
- Laneways, pathways, and footpaths.
- Leisure centres (building exteriors and grounds).
- Playgrounds.
- Public reserves, parks, and gardens.
- Road verges, road reserves, medians, roundabouts, and streetscapes.
- Sporting fields, ovals, and related sporting facilities.
- Wetlands.

7. PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Council's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide use in each public place category is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Pesticide application as determined by category of public place, user groups and level of use.

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public reserves, parks, and gardens	- General community - Children and young families - Elderly people - General recreational users	High (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	- Broadscale selective herbicides. - Broadscale non-selective herbicides. - Injection herbicide. - Spot selective herbicides. - Spot non-selective herbicides. - Injection insecticides. - Spot insecticides. - Tablet insecticides. - Injection termiticides. - Snail and slug bait. - Spot fungicide (garden beds). - Spot algicide. - Bait termiticides. - Spot termiticides.
Playgrounds	- Children - Young families	High	- Spot herbicides. - Spot insecticides.
Sporting fields, ovals, and related sporting facilities	- Sporting clubs and associations - School sports groups - General recreational users	High (seasonal depending on sporting season)	- Spot selective herbicides. - Spot non-selective herbicides. - Broadscale selective herbicides.

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Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
			• Broadscale non-selective herbicides. • Spot insecticides. • Broadscale fungicides. • Broadscale insecticides. • Spot fungicides.
Aquatic centres (Building exteriors and grounds)	• General community • Swimming clubs	High	• Spot non-selective herbicides. • Spot selective herbicides. • Spot insecticides. • Bait rodenticides. • Spot termiticides. • Bait termiticides.
Bushland reserves, beaches, and dunes	• General community • Recreational groups • Bushcare volunteers	Low to High (seasonal)	• Spot non-selective herbicides. • Injected herbicides. • Spot selective herbicides. • Spot termiticides. • Bait termiticides. • Spot insecticides. • Large vertebrate baits.
Golf courses (owned or controlled by authority)	• Golfers • General community	High	• Spot selective herbicides. • Spot non-selective herbicides. • Broadscale selective herbicides. • Spot insecticides. • Broadscale fungicides. • Broadscale insecticides. • Spot fungicides.

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Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Laneways, pathways, and footpaths	- Residents or visitors - General community	Medium to high	- Spot non-selective herbicides. - Spot selective herbicides. - Bait termiticides. - Spot termiticides.
Road verges, road reserves, roundabouts, medians, streetscapes, drains and easements	- General community - General road users	Low to high	- Spot non-selective herbicides. - Spot selective herbicides. - Spot termiticides. - Bait termiticides. - Broadscale selective herbicides. - Broadscale non-selective herbicides.
Council Nursery	- General community - Council staff and volunteers	Low to medium	- Spot non-selective herbicides. - Spot insecticides. - Spot fungicides. - Spot selective herbicides.
Exterior of Council structures and facilities	- General community - Council staff	High	- Spot non-selective herbicides. - Spot selective herbicides. - Spot insecticides. - Bait rodenticides. - Spot termiticides. - Bait termiticides.

8. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

As per legislative requirements, Council is listed as a public authority that must give public notice that they [intend to use pesticides in outdoor public places such as parks and ovals](#), or near sensitive places such as childcare centres and hospitals. Other public authorities include state government departments, and electricity network State owned corporations.

Council's notification requirements have been determined by the:

- Level of risk associated with any pesticide application in a public space.
- Level of community use of public places where pesticides may be used.
- 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.
- Extent to which activities undertaken in these areas could lead to direct contact with pesticides (e.g., picnic areas where food is consumed, sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground).
- Type of pesticide to be used.

Council will provide notice of pesticide use at Council owned and managed locations as listed in section 5, through the following:

- On site signage.
- On our website Weeds | Sutherland Shire Council (nsw.gov.au).
- Notice in a local newspaper.
- Letters and email.
- Letterbox drops.
- Door knocking.
- Phone contact.

Signage

In public places owned or controlled by Council, temporary and/or permanent notification signage will be displayed near the application area or main entrance immediately prior to application and removed half an hour after application or when the vegetation is dry.

Council employees or contractors will be present to implement signs and manage pedestrian movements and access to the specific areas during application especially during periods of high use when work cannot be scheduled at another time.

In addition, if a spray vehicle is used, pesticide details will be displayed on the spray vehicle including a contact number.

Additional notification requirements include:

- **Special Measures for Sensitive Places:** Notice will be provided by doorknocking or telephoning the identified sensitive place prior to application being done and advising of the intended application.

The *Pesticides Regulation* defines a '*sensitive place*' to be any:

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Childcare centre
- Hospital
- Community health centre
- Nursing home
- A place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority.

Treatment will be undertaken in the early in the morning and outside school hours. In situations where sensitivity to pesticide or herbicide is significant, other methods of control including manual treatment will be considered.

- **Sports fields:** Registered sporting groups, school sports groups and occupiers of adjacent places, will receive written pesticide application notification at least 48 hours prior to application.

- **Vertebrate pest baits:** Public notification will be via website, newspaper, including warning signage as per the appropriate Pesticide Control Order and in accordance with legislative requirements.
- **Golf Courses:** notification will consist of signs posted near the application area or at the tee of the relevant fairway, and on the notice board at the Pro Shop on the day of application and remain on the notice board at the Pro Shop for at least 24 hours after application. In addition, if a spray vehicle is used, pesticide details will be displayed on the spray vehicle including a contact number.
- **Emergency pesticide application:** Emergency application includes biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, European bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents that pose an immediate health hazard, or pests that pose immediate risk or harm to assets (e.g., army grubs in sporting fields).
- **Leased public places:** Persons or organisations holding an existing lease on Council land will need to implement pesticide notification in accordance with this Plan.
- **Use of Drones:** Drone technology is used at present to survey and map weed infested areas and assist in targeting on-ground pesticide application. Use of drones adhere to the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASR).

Council notification will be provided in quarterly notifications in local newspaper and on Council's website.

As technology develops Council will explore the use of drones in trials for the application of pesticides in suitable areas for a controlled and targeted approach to weed control, not to be confused with broad scale aerial dusting.

Circumstances notification is not required (Does not apply to sensitive areas)

Notification will not be required where Council is using small quantities of less than 10 litres of mixed solution for pesticides, widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes, including home gardening. Examples include:

- Minor control of outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans
- Spot weed control using a handheld applicator or backpack sprayer.

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.

9. NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE

In accordance with Part 5 Division 2 – 41 (h) of the *Pesticides Regulation*, notice of pesticide use will include the following information:

- Full product name of the pesticide to be used.
- Purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated.
- Proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use
- Locations where the pesticide is to be used.
- Council contact details
- Warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA permit.
- Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.



SUTHERLANDSHIRE 

NOTICE OF WEED/PEST CONTROL



 For more information please scan QR code or contact Sutherland Shire Council on 9710 0333

Area: Sporting Playing Fields

Target: _____

Product: _____

Active ingredient: _____

Date & time of application: _____

Safe re-entry period: _____

SDS: **AVAILABLE**

sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

Image 3: Example of signage for notice of weed/pest control

10. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The development of this Plan includes a 28-day public exhibition period, including a published notice with the local paper. Council will consider all comments received.

The final Plan will be available to the community via:

- Council's Administration Centre, 4–20 Eton Street Sutherland during office hours
- Council's website Weeds | Sutherland Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)
- Notice in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader
- Notice in the NSW Government Gazette
- Notice in the "Our Shire" newsletter.

11. IMPLEMENTATION

The Manager Open Space Operations will be responsible for the implementation, compliance, monitoring, and review of this Plan.

Council adheres to and complies with the NSW State Records Act 1998 and Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 through its plans and procedures, these can be accessed via Council's website: Privacy, information, and reporting | Sutherland Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)

Any identified or reported breaches of this Plan will be investigated and managed in line with Council's relevant Policy, or Preferred Supplier Agreement / Contract if and where applicable.

This Plan will be reviewed a minimum of once every term of Council, or more frequently as required.

End of Document

UNCONTROLLED COPY WHEN PRINTED - For up-to-date copy please refer to Sutherland Shire Council Intranet / Website			
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