



# *Burwood Council*

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## **PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN**

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Suite 1, Level 2, 1-17 Elsie Street, BURWOOD NSW 2134  
PO Box 240, BURWOOD NSW 1805  
Phone: 9911-9911 - Fax: 9911-9900  
Email: [council@burwood.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@burwood.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.burwood.nsw.gov.au](http://www.burwood.nsw.gov.au)

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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The Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* (the Regulation). The Plan sets out how Burwood 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.

The aim of the 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 Council. Council assures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or environment.

The Plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council to public places.

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 methods will be used)
- how the community can access the 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 the Plan with Council

The Plan states that Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate noxious weeds, to protect public property from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger.

The majority of pesticides use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of programmed applications range from 2-4 times per year for sports fields, 2-3 times per year for general parks and garden areas and 2-4 times yearly for public thoroughfares.

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, termiticides and rodenticides.

## 2.0 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

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Burwood 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 Burwood Council Local Government Area:

- public gardens
- parks and other green open space areas
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields and ovals
- road verges and reserves
- laneways and pathways
- road, rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
- drains
- community buildings/facilities

Burwood Council's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places is summarised in the following table.

<b>Public places</b>	<b>Regular user groups</b>	<b>Level of use of public place</b>	<b>Type of pesticide use</b>
<b>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</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 pesticides</li> <li>▪ broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>▪ broadscale insecticides</li> <li>▪ fungicides used usually for garden beds and some turf areas, spray termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>Picnic areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ families</li> <li>▪ social groups</li> </ul>	High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> <li>▪ spot pesticides</li> <li>▪ broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>▪ broadscale insecticides</li> <li>▪ spray termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ children and young families</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> <li>▪ spot pesticides</li> <li>▪ broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>▪ broadscale insecticides</li> <li>▪ spray termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>Sporting fields and ovals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>▪ school sports groups</li> <li>▪ general recreational users</li> </ul>	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> <li>▪ spot pesticides</li> <li>▪ broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>▪ broadscale insecticides</li> </ul>
<b>Road shoulders, verges and road reserves and footpaths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road</li> </ul>	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> <li>▪ spot pesticides</li> <li>▪ spray termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>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>▪ spray termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, rail, 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>▪ spray termiticides, ant control</li> </ul>
<b>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 past a drain</li> </ul>	Low to medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> </ul>

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
<b>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>▪ spray termiticides, ant control</li> <li>▪ rodenticides</li> <li>▪ pesticides</li> <li>▪ bird, rodent and termite baits</li> </ul>
<b>Swimming pool buildings and grounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ pool 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>▪ general members of the public</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ spray termiticides, ant control</li> <li>▪ rodenticides</li> <li>▪ pesticides</li> <li>▪ bird, rodent and termite baits</li> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> <li>▪ spot herbicides</li> <li>▪ spot pesticides</li> <li>▪ broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>▪ broadscale insecticides</li> </ul>

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### 3.0 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

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This section of the plan describes how and when Burwood Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on Burwood Council's, assessment that:

- the level of usage of public places where pesticides may be used
- the extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) are likely to use these areas regularly
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (such as recreational activities that result in contact with the ground)
- type of pesticide used

**Notification of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of:**

- signs
- information on Council's website
- letters and letterbox drops
- email and fax
- door knocking
- phone contact

**Instances where Burwood Council will not give prior notice of pesticide use**

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 unless near a 'Sensitive Area' 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 units.

#### 3.1 Outdoor recreational areas

The notification described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the Local Government Area (LGA):

- Public parks and gardens
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities

In these public places, signs will be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards. Schools, sporting associations and social groups that are likely to use the grounds during or after pesticide applications will be notified 48 hours prior to the application by a combination of one or all methods of phone, fax, letter which ever is most practicable for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale selective pesticides
- fungicides

- spray termiticides and ant control

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 practical).

### 3.2 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 Council within the LGA:

- laneways and pathways
- road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths
- road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public
- drains

Notification will be given on Council website at least 5 days prior to spraying programs commencing and the likely duration of the programs.

No notification will be given for small spot spraying of glyphosate herbicides except at locations adjacent to sensitive areas. These areas will be notified by phone, mail or letterbox drop 72 hours beforehand.

### 3.3 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:

- broadscale use of herbicides
- broadscale use of pesticides
- fungicides
- spot use herbicides
- spot use of insecticides
- bait rodenticides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control
- bait termiticides
- bait ant control
- bait bird control

In addition, 5 days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in Council childcare facilities will be given to operators of the facilities.

### 3.4 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 11J(1) of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* 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)

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

### **3.5 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 provide direct contact through letter or phone call to residents in the immediate vicinity of the pesticide application where possible.

### **3.6 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 Council will ensure that notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan occurs.

## **4.0 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED**

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In accordance with clause 11L (2)(g) of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009*, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used, and
- the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated, and
- the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use, and
- the places where the pesticide is to be used, and
- contact telephone number and email address of the Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice, and
- any warnings on the pesticide label or permit about how long the area must be avoided after a pesticide application

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

## **5.0 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN**

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

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its main office at Suite 1, Level 2, 1-17 Elsie Street, Burwood NSW 2134
- placing a copy of the Plan on the website at [www.burwood.nsw.gov.au](http://www.burwood.nsw.gov.au)
- placing an annual notice in the Inner West Courier
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

## **6.0 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN**

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The notification plan will be reviewed every 4 years or when circumstances require a review of the plan.

The review will include:

- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan, if required

- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

If after reviewing the plan, Council wishes to make changes to the plan that warrant public consultation, revised plans must be placed on public exhibition as described by the *Pesticides Regulation 2009*. The plan should be treated as though a new plan has been made and when finalised it should be advertised, gazetted and the EPA notified.

According to Clause 23, the public authority is not required to place a plan on exhibition if the changes are minor.

Clause 23: Amendments to pesticide use notification plans of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* states:

*A pesticide use notification plan may be amended by another pesticide use notification plan, and any such amending plan must comply with clauses 21 and 22 unless the public authority considers on reasonable grounds that the amendment is not of sufficient substance to warrant public consultation.*

If only minor changes are proposed, then the public consultation and advertising requirements set out in the Regulation will not apply.

## **7.0 CONTACT DETAILS**

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

Manager Parks  
Burwood Council Depot  
Kingsbury Street, Croydon Park NSW 2133

or access the website [www.burwood.nsw.gov.au](http://www.burwood.nsw.gov.au)

or by email [council@burwood.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@burwood.nsw.gov.au)