

Pesticide use notification plan

1 Introduction

This plan has been prepared according to the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009*.

This plan outlines how and when Sydney Water will inform the community when we, or our contractors, propose to apply pesticides in public places or residential complexes or within 20 metres of a sensitive place. Notification allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish.

The plan describes:

- what public places the plan covers
- who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of public use
- how we will notify the community and the information we will provide about pesticide applications in public places
- how the community can access this plan and get more information about Sydney Water's notification arrangements
- contact details for anyone wanting more information on the plan.

To manage natural assets, Sydney Water prefers to use manual and mechanical means to treat and control pests and weeds, rather than using pesticides in public place, because of reduced environmental and human impacts.

We only use pesticides in public places:

- when necessary to eliminate weeds
- to protect public property from pest damage
- to protect public places from nuisance or danger.

Most of our pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control. Other uses include applying insecticides to manage certain insects, termiticides to protect buildings and timber assets and rodenticides to control rats.

When used correctly, pesticides have minimal social and environmental impacts.

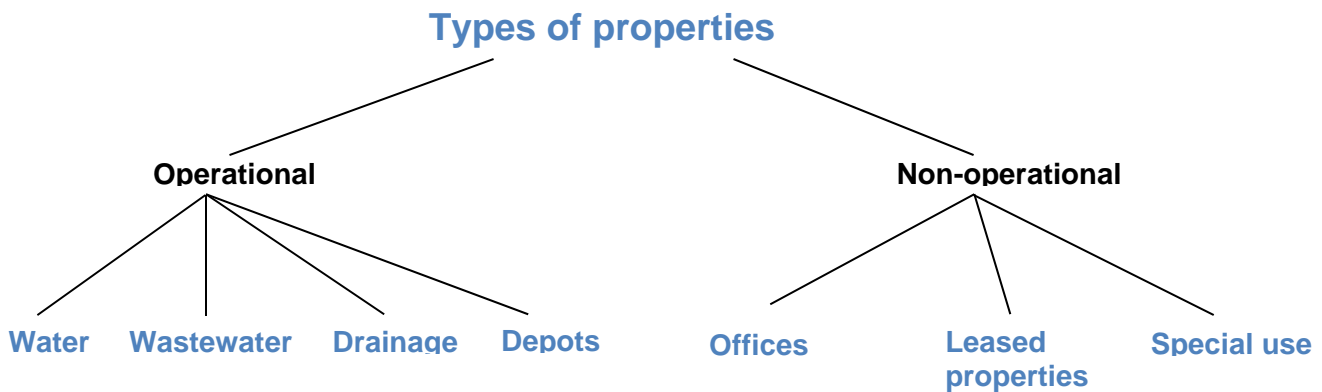
Another agency usually manages feral animal control, by using baits. This agency, usually the Livestock Health and Pest Authority, also notifies the community when they use baits. If the Livestock Health and Pest Authority doesn't notify the community, when doing this on Sydney Water property, Sydney Water will do the notifications required.

It is a requirement of the *Pesticides Regulation* that Sydney Water publish this plan on the Sydney Water webpage.

2 Public places covered by this plan

Where another authority owns the land where Sydney Water has assets, Sydney Water will follow the landowner's pesticide notification requirements where they exist or default to this plan.

Land managed or owned by Sydney Water is classified as either operational or non-operational. The two classes are subdivided as follows:



Sydney Water proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following outdoor places it owns or occupies.

Operational land includes:

Water

- Reservoirs
- Water filtration plants
- Easements (where others operate on Sydney Water lands eg Build, Own, Operate plants, not where Sydney Water has easements on land not owned by Sydney Water)
- Pipelines (trunk mains)
- Water pumping stations

Wastewater

- Wastewater carriers
- Wastewater mains
- Wastewater pumping station
- Waste water treatment plants
- Water recycling plants
- Vent shafts

Drainage and trunk drainage land

- Stormwater canals and channels
- Drainage pumping stations
- Stormwater retention pits

- Natural creeks
- Wetlands
- Wet and dry basins

Depots

Non – operational land includes:

- Offices / commercial buildings
- Depots
- Leased properties
- Special uses: picnic areas, golf courses, childcare centres (that Sydney Water has access to)

Sydney Water lands that are leased for private occupation and without public access are not within the scope of this plan.

Sydney Water’s estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide used in public places is summarised in the following table.

Some Sydney Water sites are being managed for conservation outcomes, such as Voluntary Conservation Agreement sites. We use pesticides to manage weeds and feral animals at these sites and so these sites are included in the scope of this plan.

Any off-label use must be approved by Sydney Water and a licence obtained, if needed, from the relevant authority.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use by public (high, med, low)	Type of pesticide	Most common application method(s)
Picnic areas	General public, staff and contractors	High	Pesticides applied by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot-spray • Low pressure • Power-spray • Direct injection in a localised area • Use of bait under a special permit • Use of bait as per the label or condition of use 	Hand-held back pack and hand-gun from spray truck or laid by hand (baits).
Golf courses	General public, golf course and Sydney Water staff and contractors	Medium	See above	Hand-held back pack and hand-gun from spray truck
Easements accessible to the public	Local residents, staff and contractors	Medium	Pesticide appropriate to use in public areas	Hand-held back pack and hand-gun from spray truck

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use by public (high, med, low)	Type of pesticide	Most common application method(s)
Natural creeks, trunk drainage lands and stormwater canals)	General public, staff and contractors	Medium	A number of pesticides under special permits or as per the label	Hand-held back pack and hand-gun from spray truck
Depots	Staff and contractors	Restricted	As above	Hand-held back pack and hand-gun from spray truck
Childcare centres	General public	Medium	As above	Gel and bait
Offices	General public, staff and contractors	High	As above	Gel and bait

3 Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Sydney Water will provide notice of pesticide use:

- in common areas of residential complexes
- within 20 metres of the common boundary of a sensitive place
- within a prescribed public place.

It also outlines arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where we will not give notice.

Notifying residential complexes

At least five days' notice must be given before using pesticides:

- to each resident in person or by post, facsimile transmission, email or telephone or by placing a written notice in the resident's letter box or under the resident's front door
or
- by placing a written notice for all of the following:
 - on the main notice boards at the residential complex (if available)
 - at each entrance to the building concerned (if the pesticide is to be used in a common area within a building) and
 - at each entrance to each building adjoining the common area (if the pesticide is to be used in a common area outside a building).

Notification for sensitive places

We must give notice before spraying a pesticide outdoors, or injecting a pesticide into the ground outdoors, within 20 metres of any common boundary between the land on which the pesticide is to be used and a sensitive place.

We must provide the notice to the principal, director, manager or other person having the care, control or management of a sensitive place at least five working days before the proposed pesticide use. The notice must be given in person or by post, facsimile transmission, email or telephone or by placing a written notice in the person's letterbox.

Notification for prescribed public places

Whenever we apply a pesticide to a frequently used public place, all staff and their contractors must ensure that a notice is displayed in a prominent place during the application of the pesticide, and for no less than seven days after the application.

The notice will identify the pesticide, why and when it was applied, any product specific warnings on the use of the land and a contact name for people to contact for information. If the application was to a specific area, the notice will identify the extent of land affected.

Notification of emergency pesticide applications

Notification is not required where emergency pesticide applications in public places are necessary to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), as long as we record, at that time, the use of the pesticide.

Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Sydney Water uses contractors to apply pesticides:

- Contractors and staff who use pesticides as part of their job must be licensed pest controllers under WorkCover legislation, or have completed Farmcare, ChemCert or SMARTtrain training and re-assessment in the last five years.
- Sydney Water project/contract managers must ensure that the contractor holds the above licenses or training to ensure that no harm to the contractor, members of the public or natural environment (other than the targeted species) will occur.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Sydney Water land that remains a public place, the lessee will be responsible for pesticide notification.

Information provided in the notification

According to the *Pesticides Regulation*, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- The date, dates or range of dates on which we will use the pesticide
- Area of treatment including a map or list of areas, where appropriate. One map can be referred to if repeated applications occur in the one area
- Description of targeted weed/pest, including purpose of use
- Product used, including the full name or the product code, only if full product names of pesticides used are kept at front of a logbook
- Brief description of the equipment and methods used to apply the pesticide
- The period (if any) during which the affected area should not be entered or any other limitations on use or entry to land (only if the approved label for the pesticide or the permit for use of the pesticide requires that such a period be observed or information be provided)

- Contact details, including telephone number, for a Sydney Water staff member for more details about the notification and the use.

4 Records of pesticide applications

Record keeping

We must keep a record on each occasion a pesticide is used, to meet clause 14 of the *Pesticide Regulation 2009*. We must keep the record for at least three years after the date on which we made the record.

The Sydney Water Record of pesticide use form from the Sydney Water Environment Management System, SWEMS0017.01, or a compliant equivalent may be used.

Application where no notice is necessary

The *Pesticide Regulation* does not require Sydney Water to keep a record of pesticides used if **all** of the following criteria are satisfied:

- The pesticide is available to everyone for home and garden use
- The pesticide is applied by hand or hand-held applicator and used in small quantities:
 - For outdoor use – 5 litres/5 kilograms of concentrated product, or 20 litres/20 kilograms of the ready-to-use product.
 - For indoor use – 1 litre/1 kilogram of concentrated product, or 5 litres/5 kilograms of the ready to use product

5 How the community will be informed of this plan

Sydney Water 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 1 Smith Street Parramatta, NSW 2000 or at 20 William Holmes Street Potts hill 2143
- placing a copy of the plan at sydneywater.com.au
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette and in a newspaper

Sydney Water will also notify the Environment Protection Authority in writing.

6 Future review of this plan

We will review the notification plan every five years or when circumstances require it.

7 Definitions¹

Prescribed public place means a place that is owned by or is under the control of the public authority including any of the following to which the public is entitled to have access (whether or not on payment of a fee):

- any public garden
- any picnic area
- any playground
- any park, sporting field or oval
- any public land owned or controlled by a public authority (for example, a road verge, rail easement or an easement for electricity purposes or for the purposes of other utilities²),
- any land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or any State forest or Crown land
- the grounds of any government school Technical and Further Education facility (but does not include the inside of any building or structure located at such a place).

Residential complex means any multiple occupancy medium-density or high-density residential premises, and includes:

- any block of home units
- any caravan park that includes residencies of over eight weeks duration
- multiple occupancy land under a strata scheme (whether or not the dwellings are separate from each other)
- a community scheme

It does not include dual occupancy premises.

Sensitive place means:

- any school or pre-school
- any kindergarten
- any childcare centre
- any hospital
- any community health centre
- any nursing home
- any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Office of Environment and Heritage by notice in the Gazette.

Use does not include storage.

¹ These definitions are from the *Pesticides Regulation 2009*.

² This includes Sydney Water properties used for Sydney Water wastewater, water and stormwater functions.

8 Contact details

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

Maintenance Contracts Manager
Sydney Water
PO Box 399
Parramatta NSW 2150

or visit our website www.sydneywater.com.au