



PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

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1. Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (PUNP) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* (the Regulation). The PUNP sets out how WaterNSW 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 this PUNP is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places. The PUNP allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. WaterNSW ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

The PUNP sets out how WaterNSW will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by WaterNSW to public places. The PUNP describes:

- what public places are covered by the PUNP
- who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use
- how and when WaterNSW will provide the community with information (notification arrangements) about its pesticide applications in public places
- how the community can access this plan and get more information about WaterNSW notification arrangements
- how future reviews will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this PUNP with the SCA
- special protection measures that will be taken if the pesticide is proposed to be used adjacent to a sensitive place.

WaterNSW uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate weeds, insects / invertebrate and vertebrate pests, to protect public places and WaterNSW built and environmental assets from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger.

WaterNSW pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control, insecticides for insect control and the use of baits to manage vertebrate pests. Pesticide application will be carried out according to contemporary best management practice.

WaterNSW also uses pesticides on lands that are not public places and therefore no public access is permitted, such as schedule 1 Special Areas, Controlled lands, WaterNSW owned or leased lands where public access is not permitted. On these lands the WaterNSW does not propose to provide notification of pesticides use.

Further information on WaterNSW pesticide use can be obtained by contacting WaterNSW on 1300 722 468 or by visiting the website www.watarnsw.com.au

2. Public places covered by this plan

WaterNSW proposes to use or allow the use of, pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls within the WaterNSW area of operation.

1. Viewing and day use areas
2. Roads, trails and other vehicular tracks including verges
3. Walking tracks and pathways
4. Camping grounds and conference/ holiday accommodation
5. Playgrounds
6. Electricity, telecommunications and pipeline easements
7. Lake waterbodies and foreshores
8. Gauging stations and remote infrastructure

The majority of pesticide use by WaterNSW consists of applying herbicides for weed control and the use of registered poison baits to control pest animals. Minor uses include but are not limited to applying insecticides to control certain insect pests, termiticides to protect buildings, fungicides to control pathogens, rodenticides to control rats and bird baits to control birds. The main user groups and types of pesticide use in each of the categories of public place are summarised in the following table.

Table 1. Regular user groups, level of use of public places and the type of pesticide used in public places controlled or owned by WaterNSW

Public place	Regular User groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Viewing and day use areas e.g. picnic areas, dam walls, viewing platforms.	Day visitors, recreational users, employees and contractors	Highly variable and seasonal i.e. low to very high use*	Herbicides, insecticide, bait termiticides, fungicides and vertebrate baits including rodenticides and bird baits.
Roads, trails and other vehicular tracks including verges	Recreational users, neighbours, motorists, employees and contractors	Variable – low in remote areas but often high near urban areas	Herbicides, insecticides and vertebrate baits including rodenticides.
Walking tracks and pathways	Recreational users, day visitors, campers, employees and contractors	Variable – low in remote areas but often high near urban areas	Herbicides, insecticides and vertebrate baits including rodenticides.
Camping grounds and caravan parks	Individuals or groups staying for varying periods (days to weeks), employees and contractors	Variable and seasonal i.e. low to very high use*	Herbicides, insecticides such as spray and bait termiticides, fungicides and vertebrate baits including rodenticides and bird baits.
Playgrounds	Day visitors including children and families; employees and contractors	Highly variable and seasonal i.e. low to very high use*	Some spot-spraying of herbicides and insecticides. Pesticide use in playgrounds is undertaken when they are not in use.
Electricity, telecommuni--cations and pipeline easements	The general public including recreational users, employees and contractors	Low to medium use	Broad-scale and spot use of herbicides, insecticides and vertebrate baits.
Lake water bodies and foreshores	Recreational users, employees and contractors	Variable and seasonal i.e. low to very high use*	Broad-scale and spot use of herbicides, insecticides and vertebrate baits
Gauging stations and remote infrastructure	The general public, employees and contractors	Low	Broad-scale and spot use of herbicides, insecticides and vertebrate baits

*Use of these public places peaks during weekends/holiday periods usually, when the high to very high use occurs in these places close to urban areas while less frequent use occurs in more remote areas.

3. Notification arrangements

This section of the PUNP describes how and when WaterNSW will provide notice for pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are based on WaterNSW's assessment of:

- Level of usage of public places where pesticides are to be used. Some areas have high visitor use (e.g. picnic areas and camp grounds in areas visited frequently, popular reserves close to urban areas); other areas are rarely visited by the public (e.g. foreshore areas, gauging stations in remote areas)
- 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 area could lead to some direct contact with pesticide (such as picnic areas where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground)
- The type and toxicity of the pesticide used

3.1 How and when notice of pesticides will be provided

Notice of pesticide use will be provided in one or more of the following methods:

- the erection or placement of signs
- postage of letters and letterbox drops
- Information on the WaterNSW website
- Advertisements in a state and local newspapers
- Other means if required by pesticides labels, Pesticide Control Orders and/or off label permits.
- By telephone, fax, email or personal contact

In most cases, the notification procedures will depend on the specific management technique as follows, except where no notification will be provided (see section 3.5).

- For vertebrate pesticides covered by a Pesticide Control Order (www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/pco.htm), notification will be as specified in the relevant Order, unless the Order does not specify all of the information required by the Pesticides Regulation. If the latter occurs, signs and/or notices will also provide the information required by the Pesticides Regulation (see section 4 of this Plan).
- For ground spot-spraying herbicides in areas frequently used, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the pesticide has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). If the plant sprayed has edible fruits (e.g. blackberry), signage will remain until plant/fruit has died.
- For spot-spraying areas that are used infrequently, signs will be restricted to the operating vehicle only (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign.
- When using insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, termiticides or bird-baits, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations

described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

Additional notification requirements for certain public areas are detailed below.

3.1.1 Viewing and day use areas

At viewing and day use areas, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number shown on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

3.1.2 Roads and trails including verges

Along roads and trails, signs will be placed before and after the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried. In remote areas where it is unlikely that the public will encounter pesticides (e.g. in remote areas of Nature Reserves that are used infrequently), signs will be restricted to the operating vehicle only.

3.1.3 Walking tracks and pathways

Along walking tracks and pathways, signs will be placed before and after the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

3.1.4 Camping grounds

At camping grounds, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW Office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

3.1.5 Playgrounds

Playgrounds will be closed prior to the use of any pesticides (except for minor control of insect pests using hand-held aerosols). Signs will be placed at the major entrances to the playground to be treated (except for minor control of insect pests using hand-held aerosols). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to closure and will remain in place at least until the playground is re-opened for public use (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). In addition to the information required under this Regulation (see section 4 of this Plan), the signs will provide information on the closure of the playground.

3.1.6 Electricity, telecommunications and pipeline easements

When the WaterNSW is applying pesticides over electricity, telecommunications and pipeline easements, signs will be located at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

Where a body other than the WaterNSW is responsible for management of an easement that requires the application of a pesticide, the other body will be responsible for notifying the public of its use of pesticides by use of their particular PUNP and the WaterNSW will not provide notification in relation to this land. WaterNSW will request that body to comply with this plan.

3.1.7 Lake waterbodies and foreshores

On waterbodies and foreshores, signs will be placed at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW Office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

3.1.8 Gauging stations and remote infrastructure

When the WaterNSW is applying pesticides at gauging stations or remote infrastructure signs will be located at the major entrances to the area to be treated (except for those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). When foliage is sprayed, signs will remain at least until the pesticide has dried.

3.2 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 18 of the Pesticide Regulation 2009 defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre,
- a hospital, community health centre or nursing home,
- any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by order published in the NSW Government Gazette.

WaterNSW will ensure that a pesticide use notice is given at least 5 working days before using a pesticide within 20 metres of a sensitive place. Notification will be provided to the person having the care, or management of the sensitive place or the person's agent.

Sensitive place notifications will be provided in person or by post, facsimile transmission, email or telephone or by placing the notice in the person's letterbox. If a pesticide use notification is given in person or by telephone, WaterNSW will make a record of the giving of notice. The record will be kept for at least 3 years.

3.3 Notification of emergency pesticide applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications 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), signs will be placed 'on site' (with the exception of those situations described in 3.5). Additional information will also be available at the local WaterNSW office, WaterNSW website and via the contact number on the sign. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

Where broad-scale spraying is required at short notice (e.g. locust control) and public notification is not possible, special precautions will be taken to prevent the public encountering pesticides e.g. closure of camping grounds or walking tracks

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a **sensitive place**, WaterNSW 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.

3.4 Pesticide contractors and lessees of WaterNSW land

Where WaterNSW uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, WaterNSW will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan.

3.5 Public places and pesticides uses where no notification will be provided

WaterNSW will not provide notification in any of the following public places:

- public places over which persons or organisations hold an existing lease on WaterNSW land. For these places, the lessee will be required to carry out notification as per this plan
- public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is unrelated to the pesticide use [except for playgrounds; see 3.1.5]
- remote areas where there is little likelihood of them being encountered by the public
 - e.g. areas where there is no vehicular access and low public visitation.

In addition, WaterNSW will not provide notification for the following pesticide uses in any of the public places it controls or owns:

- pesticides used in small quantities and readily available at retail outlets to the general public for the control of pests for which they are registered.
 - example 1: handheld spray bottle (e.g. for cut stump work) or backpack spraying not exceeding 1 litre of concentrate of herbicide per operator per job.
 - example 2: minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using baits or hand-held aerosols.

4. What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) 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 WaterNSW 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, Safety Data Sheet or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.¹

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

The WaterNSW website will have a dedicated area where the pesticide notifications will be posted. The WaterNSW website address will be published in WaterNSW advertisements associated with notification arrangements.

5. How the community will be informed of this plan

Copies of the PUNP will be available for public viewing free of charge in WaterNSW head office locations at Parramatta during office hours.

WaterNSW head Office
1PSQ, Level 14, 169 Macquarie Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

The PUNP can be downloaded from the WaterNSW website (www.waternsw.com.au) and will be advertised by placing a notice in the Sydney Morning Herald and the NSW Government Gazette

6. Future reviews of the plan

Unless there is a specific need for an earlier review, this notification plan will be reviewed after five years. Public consultation on any proposed changes will be undertaken in accordance with clauses 21 and 22 of the Regulation

¹ The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

7. Contact details

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

Jacob Adams
Catchment Asset Officer
WaterNSW

Levels 12 – 14
169 Macquarie Street
Parramatta NSW 2150
Phone 02 4886 9412
Email: Jacob.Adams@waternsw.com.au
Or access the website: www.waternsw.com.au

Alternatively, contact can be made through the relevant regional office of WaterNSW.

Northern Region	
Copeton Dam Toonumbar Dam Keepit Dam Chaffey Dam Split Rock Dam Glenbawn Dam Glennies Creek Dam Lostock Dam Pindari Dam Moree Narrabri	Tim Tanner Regional Manager – North Asset Maintenance and Services Tim.Tanner@waternsw.com Ph: 1300 662 077 Levels 12 – 14 169 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
Southern Region	
Balranald Hume Dam Lake Cargelligo Leeton Menindee Lakes Euston Weir Wentworth Weir Deniliquin	Eddy Taylor Regional Manager – South Asset Maintenance and Services Eddy.taylor@waternsw.com Ph 1300 662 077 Levels 12 – 14 169 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

<p>Central Region</p> <p>Burrendong Dam Windemere Dam Wyangala Dam Carcoar Dam Oberon Dam Burrinjuck Dam Blowering Dam Brogo Dam</p>	<p>Steve Hamson Regional Manager – Central Asset Maintenance and Services</p> <p>Steve.hamson@waternsw.com.au</p> <p>Ph: 1300 662 077</p> <p>Levels 12 – 14 169 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150</p>
<p>Greater Sydney</p> <p>Avon Dam Blue mountains Dams Cataract Dam Cordeaux Dam Nepean Dam Tallowa Dam and Lake Yarrunga Wallerawang Dam Oberon Dam Warragamba Dam Woronora Dam Upper Canal Warragamba Pipeline Nepean Weirs</p>	<p>Jacob Adams Catchment Asset Officer – Pest and Weeds</p> <p>Jacob.adams@waternsw.com.au</p> <p>Ph 1300 662 077</p> <p>Levels 12 – 14 169 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150</p>