



# Pesticide Use Notification Plan

February 2007

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## Introduction

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how Rockdale City 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 this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places and some indoor public spaces that are owned or controlled by Rockdale City Council. 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.

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 Environment Plan and Environmental Management System accredited under ISO:14001. This policy 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 pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control. Frequency of programmed applications varies throughout the year, with the majority of the broadleaf herbicide spraying conducted between May and August. All other spraying occurs on an 'as-needs' basis. Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Coordinator Parks on 9562 1523 or by visiting the web site [www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au).

The use of pesticides by Council within the City of Rockdale only takes place once a number of issues have been considered including whether community members are present, the speed and direction of the wind, the season and the needs of the oval. In this way, Rockdale Council ensures that pesticides are not used during high winds and when people are present.

## Public Places Covered by this Plan

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 City of Rockdale.

- public gardens, parks and picnic areas
- playgrounds
- sporting fields and ovals
- natural areas
- public land owned or controlled by Rockdale City Council, including:
  - ◆ road verges and reserves
  - ◆ laneways and pathways
  - ◆ easements accessible to the public
  - ◆ drains
- crown land.

Generally, pesticides are used minimally within and outside of buildings, with more environmentally friendly methods of pest control being favoured. Pesticides are only used in extreme cases such as the flushing out of termite infestations with the use of Spray termiticides and only ever occur outside of business hours when no community members/staff are present. Therefore, Council buildings will not be included as part of the formal notification plan.

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 below:

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use (high/medium/low)	Type of pesticide use
Public gardens, parks & picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General public</li> <li>▪ Groups with permits</li> <li>▪ Community Groups</li> </ul>	Medium to high depending on the season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Broadscale nonselective herbicide - Spearhead from May to August</li> <li>▪ Roundup all year round on 2 - 4 week intervals</li> </ul>
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adults</li> <li>▪ Children</li> <li>▪ Grandparents</li> <li>▪ Community Groups</li> </ul>	Medium to high	Spearhead from May to August
Sporting fields & ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sporting clubs</li> <li>▪ Schools</li> <li>▪ Casual users</li> </ul>	High use	Spearhead for bindi spraying from May to August
Road verges & reserves	General public	Low	Roundup - general spraying all year round
Laneways & pathways	General public	Medium to high depending on location	Round up
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, rail, water, sewer, electricity)	General public	Low	Round up
Drains	General public & staff	Low	Roundup
Crown land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Licensed groups</li> <li>▪ Schools</li> <li>▪ General Public</li> <li>▪ Staff</li> <li>▪ Visitors</li> </ul>	High	Spearhead for bindi spraying from May to August
Swimming pool buildings & grounds	Leased		

## Notification Arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when Rockdale City 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 Rockdale City 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 use particular areas
- the extent to which activities undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides
- type of pesticide used.

### How & when notice of pesticide use will be provided

General notification of pesticide use will be provided in the May community newsletter to forewarn the community of the annual pesticide usage that occurs on sporting fields and parks throughout May to August. In addition, information will be provided on all rates notices sent prior to this period as a secondary way of informing the community. The Pesticide Notification Plan will also be uploaded on to Council's web site and available in Council's Customer Service Centre so that all stakeholders are free to view the document. In addition, more specific notification will be provided for the relevant categories.

#### Public gardens, parks & picnic areas

For public gardens, signage will be displayed at the most frequented public entrance before and during the application of pesticides and will not be removed until all spray is dry on the plant. This is relevant for the following pesticide uses in public gardens:

- Spearhead
- Round Up.

#### Playgrounds & sporting fields & ovals

For playgrounds, sporting fields and ovals, signage will be provided before and during pesticide application for the following pesticide uses:

- Spearhead.

#### Road verges & reserves, laneways & pathways, road easements, drains

For road verges and reserves, laneways and pathways, road easements and drains, signage will be provided before and during pesticide application for the following pesticide uses:

- Round Up.

#### **Interiors of public buildings**

- For interiors of buildings owned or controlled by Rockdale City Council spraying never takes place when community members are present.

## Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 11J(1) of the Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or preschool
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home
- place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation).

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places adjacent to parks, fields and ovals will consist of a letter being sent to sensitive places one month before spraying for the following pesticide uses:

- Spearhead.

## Notification of 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), these applications will not be undertaken whilst community/staff members are present.

## Pesticide contractors & lessees of public places

Where Rockdale City Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, all contractors will ensure full compliance with the notification requirements of this Plan. Where a contractor is to apply pesticides on behalf of Council, the contractor must prepare a Program of Works to Council a minimum of 14 days prior to the proposed commencement date for approval by Council. It is the responsibility of the contractor to complete the notification in accordance with this plan. This Program of Works is to list all areas scheduled for application, including identification of all sensitive areas and a full listing of all pesticides to be used and the proposed methods of application.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to complete the notification in accordance with this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land and where that land remains to be a public place, if they use pesticides the lessee is required to ensure full compliance with the notification requirements of this Plan.

## What Information will be provided

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides use will include 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 places 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, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA<sup>1</sup> permit.

## How the Community will be Informed of this Plan

Rockdale City 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 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale.
- placing a copy of the plan on the its web site - [www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au)
- placing a notice in the Council Column in the St George and Sutherland Leader

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

## Future Reviews of this Plan

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

- a report on progress of implementing the plan
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

## Contact Details

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

John Comerford  
Coordinator Parks  
10 Rye Avenue, Bexley  
T 9562 1523  
F 9150 9025

E [jcomerford@rockdale.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jcomerford@rockdale.nsw.gov.au)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

