

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

Purpose

The *Pesticide Use Notification Plan* (the Plan) provides information on the City of Joondalup's management of pesticide applications in public places that are owned or managed by the City – including works undertaken by City staff and contractors.

The Plan allows the community to take action to avoid, or minimise contact with, pesticide applications applied in public places.

The City is committed to ensuring that pesticides are applied in a safe and responsible manner, minimising potential harm to the community and the environment.

Why are pesticides used?

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicide for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Herbicides are used to eliminate weeds to meet the community's expectations for functional and aesthetically appealing parks, public open spaces, sports surfaces, natural areas and facilities.

Pesticide application is undertaken in line with the Department of Health's document *Guidelines for the Safe Use of Pesticides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces*.

The City is committed to ensuring pesticide use is:

- effective
- efficient
- justified
- minimised
- at the lowest possible toxicity.

Only City approved pesticides are applied on land owned or managed by the City.

Types of pesticides used

The City uses a number of different pesticides for different purposes. Site evaluations are undertaken to determine the method of application. Descriptions of these pesticides are listed below.

Herbicides

- Selective: a selective herbicide is designed to target a specific species or plant type.
- Non-selective: a non-selective herbicide is designed to control a wide variety of plant species.

Fungicides

- Fungicides kill or prevent the growth of fungi and their spores.

Algaecides

- Algaecides control the growth of algae in water bodies and artificial turf surfaces.

Pest animal and insect control products

- Termiticides: for the control of termites.
- Rodenticides: to deal with animals such as rats and mice.
- Insecticides: to manage ants, cockroaches, spiders, wasps, millipedes etc.

Where are pesticides used?

Pesticides are used at a range of the City's outdoor public places including:

- parks and reserves
- streetscapes
- road reserves
- footpaths
- pedestrian access ways (PAW)
- drainage reserves
- natural areas/foreshore reserves
- buildings owned or managed by the City.

Table 1 overleaf categorises the City's public places, and lists the regular user groups of the area and the types of pesticide/s used.

Table 1 – Categories of the City's Public Places

Public Places	Regular User Groups	Type of Pesticide
Parks and reserves	Residents and visitors, active and passive recreational users, schools, corporate and private bookings and events hire, companion animals	Herbicides Insecticides Fungicides Algaecides
Road reserves	Local residents and visitors, walkers, cycling, motorists	Herbicides
Footpaths and pedestrian access ways (PAW)	Local residents and visitors, walkers, cyclists	Herbicides
Streetscapes	Local residents and visitors, walkers, cyclists	Herbicides
Drainage reserves	Drainage reserves are fully fenced and generally not accessible by the public	Herbicides
Natural areas or foreshore reserves	Residents and visitors (to park or reserve) along designated paths or tracks	Herbicides Rodenticides
Buildings owned or managed by the City	General community	Termiticides Rodenticides Insecticides

Application methods

The City uses two weed control application methods – broadacre spraying and targeted application.

Broadacre spraying:

- is generally undertaken by machinery with boom sprays
- is the most effective and efficient method to apply pesticides to large open spaces such as sports ovals
- uses foam markers as a visual reference to ensure uniform coverage of chemicals in open areas, eliminating overlapping of pesticide application. Markers are not pesticides.

Targeted application is used for small areas or where obstacles or site constraints restrict access of larger machinery. It can be applied by:

- backpack spray units or vehicle-mounted tanks and hoses with applicable control attachments where required
- wick or sponge wiping via a handheld applicator directly onto targeted plant/s
- cut and paint/basal bark treatment which involves painting pesticide directly onto a woody cut plant
- controlled droplet applicators.

Notification arrangements

Notification of spraying is based on the type of chemical control (unscheduled/scheduled). The community is advised of scheduled control in advance. Unscheduled control is conducted on a case-by-case basis, so prior notification is not possible.

Definitions

Scheduled chemical weed control program

Scheduled control is carried out at set intervals and requires planning due to the larger areas of spraying required. Local residents will be notified of pesticide use in line with the Notification Hierarchy (Table 2 overleaf), which includes:

- information presented on the City's website
- signs erected at main entrances of parks, reserves and playgrounds
- vehicle and equipment signage.

Residents listed on the Pesticide Notification Register will also receive an automated notification (via text message or email) at least 24 hours prior to application.

Unscheduled chemical weed control

- Chemical weed control is a secondary action resulting from streetscape, park and natural area maintenance activities.
- Spraying is undertaken (if required) at the time of these activities.
- It is intended that this will involve minimal spot spraying of weeds.

External providers of services to the City

External contractors applying pesticides must liaise with the City to ensure notification arrangements are observed.

Sites owned and/or shared by multiple government agencies

When multiple agencies have responsibility for land management, with no physically defined boundary (such as Yellagonga Regional Park), the City will apply pesticides as defined by this Plan for the areas which the City manages.

Information provided

Pesticide notification will include:

- active constituent 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
- the City's contact telephone number and corporate email address.

The City complies with specifications of pesticide labels and permits issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, including additional warnings and safety protocols.

All signage displayed will be in accordance with the *Department of Health Pesticide Regulations 2011* Signage Requirements.

Notification of any pesticide application will be in accordance with the Plan.

Table 2 – Notification Hierarchy for Spraying Activities

Location type	Site signage	Vehicle and equipment signage	Pesticide Notification Register	Public notices on the City's website
Parks and reserves	•	•	•	•
Road verges	•	•	•	•
Pedestrian access ways and footpaths	•	•	•	
Drainage sites	•	•	•	
Natural areas/foreshore reserves	•	•	•	•
Buildings owned or managed by the City	•	•	•	
Unscheduled chemical weed control	•	•	•	

Pesticide Notification Register

City residents wishing to be advised in advance of spraying activities, occurring within 100m of their residence, can apply to be added to the City's Notification Register.

Notifications are automatically generated via email or text message. It is the resident's responsibility to ensure that details listed on the Pesticide Notification Register are up-to-date.

Registrants will be contacted annually for re-registration. Failure to re-register within 28 days will result in removal from the Pesticide Notification Register.

Future reviews of the plan

The Plan will be reviewed every five years. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the Plan
- an evaluation on the notification methods outlined in the Plan.

Contact details

To discuss the Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places, contact the City's Infrastructure Services Customer Relations on **9400 4255**.

Further information

City documents

The Application for Pesticide Notification Register is available from the City of Joondalup.

Western Australian Government documents and information

- *A Guide to the Management of Pesticides in Local Government Pest Control Programs in Western Australia* (Department of Health website)
- *Health (Pesticide) Regulations 2011* (State Law Publisher website).

Department of Agriculture and Food

- visit agric.wa.gov.au