Pesticide use notification plan

Responsible Directorate	**Infrastructure**
Responsible Business Unit/s	**Parks & Sustainability** **Engineering Operations**
Responsible Officer	**Manager Parks and Sustainability**
Affected Business Unit/s	**Planning and Development – Environmental Health**

INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) has been prepared using '*A guide to the management of pesticides in local government pest control programs in Western Australia'* released by the Department of Health.

Although a Pesticide Use Notification Plan is not a mandatory requirement under law, it is nevertheless an important principle to inform residents where the City proposes to use pesticides in public place enabling residents to avoid the area.

Under the *Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011* there are mandatory requirements regarding the placement of warning signs in public places, along with signage and flashing lights on vehicles used in the application of pesticides.

The Plan aims to inform residents, ratepayers and visitors of when and where pesticides are going to be applied to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by Council.

T h e Plan enables members of the community to be consulted in its drafting, including the type of pesticides which may be used on specific sites.

The Plan sets out how the City will notify members of the community of impending programmed pesticide applications within a locality or district, so that individuals may minimise their contact with pesticides and / or avoid treated sites. This Plan may be of particular benefit to those who are chemically sensitive.

Following community consultation, the approved Plan will be reviewed every three years or sooner, if circumstances change.

The City will ensure pesticides are applied to public places according to the label in a safe and responsible manner, to minimise the risk to public health and to the environment.

Pesticides are used in public places to control introduced weeds, pests and diseases/fungus etc, to protect council's assets from damage by pest animals and insects. Control of these pests also allows maintenance of a level of amenity which encourages and enables continued community use of our parks and public facilities.

The City is committed to using non-chemical weed and pest control methods, and when required, will use registered pesticides of low toxicity to achieve the desired outcome. The City will implement a range of control measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), while continuing to investigate alternatives to pesticide use where possible.

The Plan describes:

- the public places that are covered by the Plan
- the types of community user and visitors to these public places and their estimated level of use and associated risk of exposure
- how and when the City will provide the community with information about its pesticide treatments in public places i.e., notification methods (how the City will communicate with its community)
- where the community can access this Plan to obtain further information about the City's notification arrangements
- how future reviews of the Plan will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss the Plan with a City officer.

Pesticide use on City land or land under its care and control includes scheduled pesticide treatments and / or emergency applications.

Scheduled treatments of herbicides along road verges and footpaths in the City generally occur two times per year in accordance with the Pesticide Spray Schedule.

Scheduled treatments of broadacre broadleaf weed herbicide treatments generally occur in winter and early spring. Herbicide edge spraying and weed control in gardens and mulched areas are conducted year round.

Application of certain pesticides which may include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, algaecides, miticides and nematicides, may be necessary to control pests in an emergency or on an as needs basis.

Baits may be used to control outbreaks of vermin which may include rats, mice or other feral vertebrates to protect parks, reserves, bushland or other outdoor environment.

Where there are bodies of water, whether permanent or temporary, the City may need to use larvicides and adulticides to control mosquitoes and other insect pests; this may include fogging to control adult insects as well as a range of other control measures.

PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

The City will apply pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that are under its care or control:

- parks, reserves, bushland, dunes and other public open spaces
- playgrounds
- barbecues & picnic areas
- sports grounds, ovals & hardcourts
- garden beds in public places
- road verges, footpaths and laneways
- footpaths and laneways
- lakes & wetlands - either permanent or temporary
- car parks
- public amenities
- other sites.

The City'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.

PUBLIC PLACES TABLE

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of community use	Type of pesticide use
Parks, reserves, bushland and dunes	Residents & visitors Sporting groups Passive recreational users Children & adults Schools Corporate & private Bookings & events hire Companion animals	High	Insecticides – contact & systemic Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicides/Algaecides Rodenticides - baits Molluscicides – baits Miticides – contact & systemic
Garden beds	Residents and visitors passing by.	Medium	Insecticides – contact & systemic, Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicide – contact
Road verges, footpaths & laneways	Residents & visitors Walkers and cyclists Drivers of motor vehicles.	High	Herbicides – non selective and selective Insecticides – contact Fungicides/Algaecides – contact Rodenticides - baits
Lakes & wetlands - permanent & ephemeral	Residents and visitors passing by, recreational and sporting groups	Medium	Insecticides – contact & systemic Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact. Fungicides/Algaecides – contact
Car parks & public amenities	Residents & visitors	Medium	Herbicides – selective and non-selective/ systemic & contact Insecticides – contact & systemic

NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Plan describes how and when the City will provide notice of programmed pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive sites that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice may not be given.

The notification requirements are based on Council's risk assessment of:

- level and type of usage of public places where pesticides may be used
- the extent to which members of the public are likely to be more sensitive to pesticides, (e.g. children) are likely to regularly use the areas
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could reasonably lead to direct contact with pesticides, for example active recreation on sports ovals or sitting on grass in parks
- the type of pesticides used.

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

- information of where and which pesticides are to be used will be compiled and displayed on the City's website that includes an annual schedule of pesticide treatments
- Annual advertisement updates published in local newspapers and on the City's website promoting the Pesticide Use Notification Plan.
- an updated pesticide spray schedule and its availability and locations for viewing
- signs erected at main entrances to parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports grounds and other public open spaces for all pesticide application as required by the *Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011*, (noting that public signage is occasionally subject to illegal removal and vandalism)
- City's phone and email contact details for enquiries about pesticide treatments.
- information at City's administration office and libraries, including community centres, upon request
- Email notices of updated pesticide spray schedule to registered sensitive sites, sporting groups and chemically sensitive individuals when spraying is to commence in their immediate area.

Owners / occupiers of sensitive sites which register interest with the City will be provided with advanced notice of the City's annual schedule of pesticide treatments. Electronic notification such as email, messaging or other media may be used.

Pesticide spraying in parks and reserves that are adjacent or in the near vicinity to pre-schools and schools generally will be deferred to holiday periods when children and staff are away.

The City may need to adjust the spray schedule due to inclement weather conditions, to permit safe and effective use of a pesticide product.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE WEBSITE

Notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- the places where the pesticide is to be used
- the full product name of the pesticide to be used & its active constituent
- 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 (subject to weather)
- contact telephone number of the City officer 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 an Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit.

HOW & WHEN NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE WILL BE PROVIDED

Parks, reserves, bushland and other public open spaces

Signage will be displayed at the main entrances of parks and public spaces immediately prior to treatments.

Signage will be displayed where pesticides are applied whether by boom spray or other mechanical methods; this includes scheduled spot spraying applications using knapsacks or similar hand held spraying equipment. Signage will remain in place until the leaf is dry of pesticide – as required under the *Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011*.

Additional signage may be erected around the boundary of the specific areas being treated to manage any additional risk.

Signage is required for the following pesticide uses:

- Insecticides
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Algaecides
- Other pesticides.

Road verges, footpaths and laneways

In these public places, advanced information on the annual programmed applications of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides will be posted on the City's website.

Occupiers of adjacent sensitive sites including kindergartens, children's day care centres, community centres and schools who register an interest with the City will be provided with electronic notification of the City's annual program of pesticide treatments.

Chemically sensitive residents are encouraged to register an interest in the use of pesticide if it is being applied adjacent to their residence. In these situations pesticide use will be limited or avoided at a particular location.

When the City receives notification from a resident of their decision not to have pesticides applied to an adjacent verge, details of the resident's name and address will be added to the 'Do Not Spray' Register. The City will notify contractors and staff that pesticides are not to be applied to the adjacent verge at the registered address, however, pesticide applications will be advertised and no individual notification of street applications will occur.

Certain City owned/ managed buildings & properties

For pesticide use in grounds of childcare facilities owned or controlled by the City, signs will be placed at the main entrance and near the application area on the day of treatment. Signs will remain until the approved re-entry period has expired or until the pesticide has dried where there is no stated re-entry period on the registered label. As the City has nominated childcare centres as sensitive sites, advanced notification (below) will be given unless the treatment of a pest is an urgent matter. The treatment of weeds and other pests within City managed sensitive sites, such as childcare centres, is typically arranged on weekends or during holiday periods, to avoid users of the facility being exposed to pesticides.

The use of aerosol insect sprays and other pesticides, such as rodent baits placed inside City buildings are not covered in this Plan.

Car parks, public toilets and public amenities

For pesticide use in grounds of car parks, public toilets and public amenities owned or controlled by the City, signs will be placed at the main entrance and near the application area on the day of treatment and in accordance with the *Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011*.

Sensitive sites

Special notification measures will be employed for sensitive sites which include:

- schools or pre-schools
- kindergartens
- childcare centres
- hospitals
- community health centres
- nursing homes
- other place/s declared to be a sensitive site by the City.

Special notification measures for scheduled pesticide use in outdoor public areas adjacent to sensitive sites for each category of public place are outlined above. For emergency pesticide use in outdoor areas adjacent to sensitive site, the City will provide notification in the vicinity where practical.

External providers of services to the City

Where the City uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, the City will ensure its contractors are licensed by the Department of Health, hold the appropriate endorsements to carry out the treatment and are conversant and contractually bound with this Plan. Regular audits of pesticide treatments will be undertaken by City staff to ensure compliance with the Plan, including any specific requirements as outlined in any associated tender.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on City managed land that remains a public place, the City will ensure an electronic notification is made in accordance with the notification details of this Plan.

Sites owned and/or shared by multiple government agencies

In public places where multiple government agencies have responsibility for land management, where there is no physically defined boundary and where the City or its contractors are undertaking the pesticide treatments, this Plan will be followed. To manage pesticide treatments, a Memorandum of Understanding between agencies may be required on such sites.

Where tenders are called for the application of pesticides on City owned or managed land, successful tenderers will be required to adhere to the City's Plan and will be subject to audit.

When tenders are called, only registered pest management businesses employing licensed pest management technicians with appropriate license endorsements will be considered by the City.

Pesticide Notification Register

A Pesticide Notification Register will be maintained and include

a. No Spray Verge List - to allow residents / ratepayers to register an adjacent City verge to be left untreated with pesticides (in return for the resident/ owner maintaining the verge in a weed free condition);
b. Park Pesticide Notification List - to enable residents to register for notification when a nearby park or reserve (managed by the City) is to be sprayed using a pesticide.

The City will keep an up to date register of these two lists. In February each year, residents are required to contact the City to advise of any change in their contact details. The City will contact those on both registers to confirm the accuracy of the list. Residents are required to provide either an email address (preferred method) or a phone number (preferably a mobile number) and residential address. Where the City receives no response from a person on either register, their details will be removed from the list.

Instances where the City may not give prior notice of pesticide use

There may be instances, such as in emergency or other particular circumstances, where the City may not be in a position to provide notification for the treatment of a pest. Other occasions where notification may not be provided could include:

- minor spot spraying of herbicides or insecticides by hand held equipment
- cut and paint or stem injection techniques where a tree/s is removed
- the urgent removal of biting insects near a playground or other sensitive site.

On these occasions the City will assess and manage the risk with signage and staff and where possible, notify residents in the immediate area.

WARNING SIGNALS DURING TREATMENT

Verge spraying using a moving vehicle

It is a requirement under Regulation 89 of the *Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011* that where spraying of a registered pesticide on a verge is conducted from a moving vehicle, the vehicle must display a warning sign fixed in a prominent position which can be seen by road users. The sign is to have the words 'CAUTION: (NAME OF CHEMICAL) BEING APPLIED', in capital letters not less than 50mm in height (see image right). Trade name or active constituent(s) is acceptable. In addition, a flashing yellow warning light is to be fitted and activated while the vehicle is used in the spraying operation

Park spraying using a moving vehicle

Regulation 89A also requires that where spraying of a registered pesticide occurs on a park from a moving vehicle a warning sign as outlined (see image right) is fixed to the vehicle in a prominent position. A flashing yellow light is also required and is to be activated while the vehicle is used in the spraying operation.

In addition to Regulation 89A, Regulation 89B requires stand-alone warning signs be displayed. Warning sign(s) are to have the words 'CAUTION: (NAME OF CHEMICAL) BEING APPLIED. AVOID CONTACT WITH AREA WHEN SIGN IS DISPLAYED' in capital letters not less than 50mm in height. Trade name or active constituent(s) may be used. Warning signs must be prominently displayed so that they are clearly visible to persons approaching the spraying operation and are at a distance from spraying operation to provide adequate warning of the pesticide being applied. Warning signs are to remain in place until the surface where the pesticide was applied has dried.

Spraying in public place other than verge or park spraying

Regulation 89C applies to the spraying of a registered pesticide in a public place other than on a verge or in a park. Stand-alone signs (see image right are required to be displayed at sufficient intervals to provide adequate warning while the pesticide is being applied and kept in place until all surfaces where the pesticide was applied has dried

Verge or park spraying using a stationary vehicle

Regulation 89B refers to verge or park spraying where the vehicle is stationary. The same requirements for signage as in regulation 89A outlined above are required.

HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

The City will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the Plan available for viewing, free of charge
- publishing a copy of the Plan on the website at www.stirling.wa.gov.au
- distributing an annual notice in the local newspaper/s and other City communication channels indicating where the plan can be viewed via the City's website, at the Administration Centre or local libraries.

REVIEW OF THE PLAN

The Pesticide Use Notification Plan will be reviewed by the City every three years or sooner if circumstances change. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the Plan
- audit of pesticide treatments and records
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the Plan and public comment following a request for submissions, making recommendation for amendments (if applicable) to the Plan.

CONTACT DETAILS

Residents wishing to contact the City to discuss the Pesticide Use Notification Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

City of Stirling
25 Cedric Street, Stirling
E: (stirling@stirling.wa.gov.au)or
W: (www.stirling.wa.gov.au)

Appendix 1 to be used prior to any annual application of pesticides or as an ongoing indicator of City's commitment to the level of notification required for each site.

Appendix 1: Notification Checklist Table

	Site Signage	Vehicle & Equipment Signage	Annual advertising of the Plan in newspaper & or City's website	Annual electronic notification to registered users of sensitive sites	Annual treatment program available on the City's website
Parks, reserves, bushland & dunes	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Garden beds	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Road verges		☑	☑	☑	☑
Footpaths & laneways		☑	☑	☑	☑
Car parks, public	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Lakes/ wetlands - permanent	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Sensitive sites	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Spot & emergency sprays	☑				

Office use only				
Relevant delegations	Not Applicable			
Initial Council adoption	**Date** 4 December 2018		**Resolution #**	1218/005
Last reviewed	**Date** 29 January 2019		**Resolution #**	
Next review due	**Date** 2020			