

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council





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1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 4B of the *Pesticides Regulation 1995* (the Regulation). The Plan sets out how the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to outdoor public places that it owns or controls.

The Castlereagh Macquarie County Council is a single purpose authority, created by the New South Wales Government, as the local control authority for noxious weeds under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* over the areas of the Shires of Coonamble, Gilgandra, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungle.

The County Council's functions include the control of noxious weeds on roads, in the area of operation of the Council, as required by Section 14 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. This is a joint obligation with any occupier required to control weeds on roads under Section 17.

The County Council uses pesticides to control noxious weeds on roads.

Wherever possible, the County Council follows an integrated weed management program that aims to use best practice and cost effective techniques that will have minimal impacts on the environment. Pesticides are one of the control techniques that are particularly effective for managing weeds on roadsides in conjunction with mechanical control techniques, where appropriate.

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



2. PUBLIC PLACES, USERS AND LEVEL OF USE

The Regulation defines prescribed outdoor public places which must be covered by the Plan, the definition of which excludes the insides of any buildings or structures.

The categories of public place controlled by Castlereagh Macquarie County Council to which this Plan applies are: Urban roads (including median strips, roadsides, roundabouts, traffic islands and some cycleways and footpaths); Freeways and Controlled Access Roads and Rural roadsides.

It should be noted that these categories of public place are controlled by the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council only for the limited purpose of controlling noxious weeds

Other public authorities, including local Councils and the Roads and Traffic Authority, have shared control of these public places.

Pesticide Use Notification Plan



The regular user groups of these categories of public place and their estimated usage are set out in the following table.

Public Place	Regular User Group	Level of use of Public Place	Type of Pesticide Use	Application Method
Urban roadsides, including median strips, road shoulders, kerb and guttering, roadsides, roundabouts, traffic islands, roadside cycleways and footpaths	Pedestrians vehicle, drivers/riders and passengers, cyclists, Employees and Contractors	High	Herbicides	Hand Held application (such as vehicle mounted and backpack sprayers) Boom Equipment
Controlled Access Roads	As above	High	As Above	As Above
Freeways	Pedestrians vehicle, drivers/riders and passengers, cyclists, Employees and Contractors	High	As Above	As Above
Rural Roadsides	Pedestrians vehicle, drivers/riders and passengers, cyclists, Employees and Contractors	Low to Medium (Depending on location)	As Above	As Above



3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section describes the pesticide uses for which notice will be provided, how and when notice will be provided, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and situations where notice will not be given.

These notification arrangements have been developed after consideration by the County Council of the following matters:

Some areas have high public use (e.g. urban streets), however other areas are rarely visited by members of the public (e.g. remote rural roads);

Some members of the public, such as children, may be more sensitive to pesticides than others;

Types and amount of pesticides likely to be used by the County Council; Toxicity of pesticides likely to be used by the County Council;

Application techniques likely to be used by the County Council;

Variability of noxious weeds owing to climatic and other conditions and the need to apply pesticides at the appropriate growth or reproductive stage.



3(a) How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

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

- The display of signs
- Individual notice

Situations in which individual notice will be given are described in 3(b).

Public Place	Notification Methods	Notification Timing
Urban roadsides, including median strips, road shoulders, kerb and guttering, roadsides, roundabouts, traffic islands, roadside cycleways and footpaths	Signs on vehicles – the sign to include a prominent contact number to call for specific information on the spraying activity. Individual notice as described in 3 (b)	Signage on vehicle concurrent with spraying activity. Individual notice – 7 days before spraying activity is to commence.
Controlled access roads	Individual notice as described in 3 (b). No other notice.	Individual notice – 7 days before spraying activity is to commence.
Freeways	Individual notice as described in 3(b). No other notice.	Individual notice – 7 days before spraying activity is to commence.
Rural roadsides	Individual notice as described in 3(b). No other notice.	Individual notice – 7 days before spraying activity is to commence.



3(b) Circumstances in which individual notice of pesticide use will be provided

A person – who has a special sensitivity to a pesticide that the County Council is likely to use to control noxious weeds on roads, and produces to the Council a medical certificate by a registered medical practitioner evidencing that sensitivity, or who is a certified organic producer of any foodstuff, and produces to the County Council evidence of such certification may give written notice to the County Council –That the person requests individual notice of proposed pesticide use by the County Council on a road adjoining a nominated address, and of the manner in which the individual notice is requested to be given (e.g. by post, telephone, email) and the necessary particulars to enable notice to be given in the manner requested.

A nominated address may only be an address at which the person having a special sensitivity usually resides or, in the case of a certified organic producer, carries on production.

Where the County Council has a written notice referred to in this clause it will endeavour to give individual notice in the manner requested at least 7 days before any proposed pesticide use on a road adjoining the nominated address.



3(c) Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 11J of the Regulation defines a “Sensitive Place” to mean a –

- School or preschool
- Kindergarten
- Childcare
- Centre hospital
- Community health centre
- Nursing home
- Other place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environmental Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation).

Before using a pesticide adjacent to a sensitive place the County Council will consider the feasibility of using mechanical means of noxious weed control (such as mowing or slashing) and will use mechanical means where feasible. Where use of mechanical means is not feasible, the County Council will apply pesticides only by hand application and will use its best endeavours to notify the owner or controller of the sensitive place of the proposed use before that use takes place.



3(d) Emergency pesticide applications

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Plan, where a noxious weed outbreak requires immediate action to prevent the growth or spread of the noxious weed and the giving of notice that might otherwise be required by this Plan is not feasible the County Council is not required to give any notice of a proposed pesticide application.

3(e) Pesticide contractors

Wherever the County Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, the contractors will be required to notify the public according to the requirements of this Plan.



4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with Clause 20(1)(h) of the Regulation, the following information will be available on any notice given or sign displayed or by contacting the phone number given on any sign or notice:

- The full product name of the pesticide to be used,
- The purpose of the use, clearly setting out what noxious weed is 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 of the County Council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice and any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA permit.



5. HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY BE INFORMED

Castlereagh Macquarie 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 77 Fox Street, Walgett NSW 2832.
- Placing a copy of the plan on its website
- Placing a notice in the local newspaper circulating in the area

7. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

Unless there is a specific need for an earlier review, this Plan will be reviewed every five years.

The review will include –

A report on the effectiveness of the Plan;

Public notification via the Council's website of the Council's intention to conduct the review and consideration by the Council of any submissions received; and

Recommendations for alterations, if any are considered to be necessary to the Plan.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact the County Council to discuss the Plan should contact:

Don Ramsland

General Manager

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Telephone (02) 6828 6116

Email: admin@walgett.nsw.gov.au



9. PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION FORM

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION FORM

Product Name	
Purpose of Use	
Proposed Dates for Treatment	Between ___ / ___ / ___ and ___ / ___ / ___
Area to be Treated	
Sensitive Places Effected	
Special measures for Sensitive Places	
Any warnings regarding re-entry	
Contact Person	Donald Ramsland
Contact Telephone Number	02 6828 1399
Contact Email Address	admin@walgett.nsw.gov.au

- Note:
- 1) Full product name must be stated
 - 2) Purpose of use e.g.: weed control, ant control etc.
 - 3) Date - must be at least 3 days in advance
 - 4) Area, park name, street name, (if need be identification of section of road or street).

A copy of this form is to be given to the Executive Assistant to the General Manager for inclusion in Council's weekly newspaper columns and placed on Council's website.



10. REVIEW HISTORY

Date	Details of Review	Minute No
24/08/2015	Adopted	08/15/11