

10.5 Infrastructure Services Directorate

10.5.1 Public Exhibition of updated Pesticide Notification Plan

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

Business Unit: Works and Services

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to place the updated Pesticides Notification Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

The *Pesticides Regulation 2017* require public authorities to have a Pesticide Notification Plan in place prior to using pesticides in public places that are owned or controlled by Council. It is a requirement of the regulation for the Plan be placed on Public Exhibition for community feedback.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the amended Pesticides Notification Plan to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days calling for submissions.**
- 2. Receive a further report at the end of the exhibition period outlining the submissions received and any recommended changes, for consideration prior to adopting the plan.**

Background

Council's Pesticides Notification Plan (the Plan) (**Attachment 1**) was first adopted in February 2007 and reviewed in 2015. The purpose of the Plan is to identify the various circumstances in which pesticides are used in public spaces and to outline how the community will be notified of pesticide applications.

Council uses a range of registered pesticides for the control of weeds in public areas. This is important for the presentation of the city and is critical for

managing bushland areas and maintaining playing surfaces. The use of pesticides is a necessary component of open space maintenance. The Plan describes the circumstances in which notification will occur, the methods of notification, and the information that will be provided to the public. This ensures that the community has the necessary information to safely interact with public spaces while pesticide application activities are in progress.

Council Implications

FINANCIAL / RESOURCES

The draft Plan is not expected to have any financial or resource impacts.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY (INCLUDING ADVOCACY, STRATEGIC AND OTHER PLANS)

Council has a statutory responsibility under the *Pesticides Amendment Regulation 2017* to have Pesticide Notification Plan and this requires public exhibition prior to adoption. Given the minor updates in the proposed amendment, under the regulation Council could resolve to adopt the plan without exhibition. Exhibition is proposed due to the time lapse since the last amendment.

SOCIAL IMPACT

This Plan allows the community to know what pesticides are being used by Council in public places to allow its continued safe management in these spaces during application activities.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The updated Pesticides Notification Plan improves the consistency and transparency of how Council communicates pesticide activities to the community. As pesticide use itself is an operational matter managed under existing sustainable practices, the amendments relate only to notification requirements. The changes formalise current procedures and ensure compliance with regulatory expectations without altering operational activities.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

- Corporate Risk - The use of certain pesticides in public spaces is a topical issue within the community. The notification plan outlines how Council will deliver these activities and provides the community with sufficient information on how to interact safely with public places during pesticide application.
- WHS and Public Risk - Council only uses registered pesticides in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. Staff have the appropriate training and knowledge to apply these products safely.
- Environmental Risk - Registered pesticides are used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's directions by appropriately trained staff.
- Delivery Program Risk - Weed management is an important component of Council's open space maintenance activities. The draft amendments to the notification plan will not impact the delivery of this work.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

This report supports the following objectives, strategies and actions of the Community Strategic Plan:

5.2 We have infrastructure and public spaces that meet community needs

5.2.2 Maintain infrastructure and public spaces that meet community needs

5.2.2.01 Maintain Council parks, open spaces, sportsfields and recreational facilities

Previous Council Resolutions

Nil

Consultation

Internal

Open Spaces Team Coordinators

Airport

Aquatics and Recreation Manager

External

Illawarra District Weeds Authority

Political Donations Disclosure

Not Applicable

Options

Nil

Conclusion

The updated Pesticides Notification Plan ensures Council continues to meet regulatory requirements and provides transparent information to the community about pesticide use in public spaces. The proposed amendments reflect current practices, pose no financial or operational impacts, and maintain effective management of associated risks. It is recommended that the amended Plan be placed on public exhibition for community feedback, with a further report to be presented following the exhibition period.

Attachments

1. Pesticide Notification Plan