

(Draft) Tweed Shire Council
PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN
November 2006

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Prepared by Tweed Shire Council
Tumbulgum Rd, MURWILLUMBAH
PO Box 816, Murwillumbah NSW 2464
Phone: 02 6670 2400
Fax: 02 6670 2429
Website: WWW.tweed.nsw.gov.au

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Tweed Shire Council

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995. The plan sets out how Tweed Shire 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.

Pesticides include a range of substances used to destroy, suppress or alter the life cycle of any pest. These can include herbicides, insecticides, bactericides, fungicides, rodenticides, baits and lures. The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation provides more detail in their fact sheet 'What are Pesticides?' which can be sourced at the Website WWW.environment.nsw.gov.au/pesticides.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Tweed Shire 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 Tweed Shire:

- Parks and garden beds
- Playgrounds
- Picnic tables and park shelters
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Cricket wickets
- Swimming pools
- Coastal dunes, natural areas and bushland
- Rivers, foreshores and canal estate shorelines
- Drains and drainage systems
- Wetlands
- Cemeteries
- Tweed Coast Holiday Parks
- Road verges, road reserves, laneways, pathways and easements accessible to the public
- Landfill/waste disposal sites

Tweed Shire Council's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticides used in each of these categories of public places is summarised in the following table.

Public places	• Regular user groups	Level of use	• Type of pesticide use
Parks and garden beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General recreation use eg joggers, dog walkers, picnickers • All ages and social groups 	Use varies significantly from very high to low.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of selective and non selective herbicides • Spot application of insecticides - eg ants or wasp nests • Directed application of non selective herbicide • Broadscale application of selective herbicide • Spot application of fungicide (garden beds) • Rodenticide– irregular treatment, as required
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and other family members 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicides – limited use only • Spot application of insecticides - eg ants or wasp nests
Picnic tables and park shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community 	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional spot insecticide - eg ants or wasp nests
Sports fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • General sports participants • Informal use by all ages 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of selective and non selective herbicides • Spot application of insecticides - eg ants or wasp nests • Broadscale application of selective herbicide • Rodenticide– irregular treatment, as required
Turf cricket wickets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket players, generally young adults • Informal use, generally children 	Varies from intensive (match days), otherwise very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of selective herbicides • Spot applications of fungicides • Spot application of insecticides - eg ants
Swimming Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • General community • Formal & informal training (all ages) 	High (seasonal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of selective and non selective herbicides • Spot application of insecticides - eg ants or wasp nests • Broadscale application of selective herbicide • Chlorine is regularly used to control water quality and as a disinfectant
Coastal dunes, natural areas and bushland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General beach users • Landcare and Dunecare groups • Informal bushwalking 	Low, other than adjacent to facilities, paths or trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicides • Broadscale (aerial) herbicide spray – glyphosate over selected coastal dune areas • Stem injection of insecticide – pandanus planthopper • Rodenticide– irregular treatment, as required

Public places	• Regular user groups	Level of use	• Type of pesticide use
Rivers, foreshores and canal estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing, swimming, boating access and walking • Primarily local residents in canal estates 	Low (high use in parks adjoining foreshore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicide • Broadscale application of insecticide in canal estates (biting midges). • Rodenticide – Regular treatment in rock walls or as required
Drains and drainage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular users, other than in formal parks • Nature observation 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicide • Directed application of non selective herbicide • Broadscale application of non selective herbicide (water weeds) • Rodenticide– irregular treatment, as required
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular users • Nature observation 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicide • Broadscale application of insecticide (mosquitoes)
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of selective and non selective herbicides • Spot application of insecticides - eg ants or wasp nests • Fungicide (garden beds) • Rodenticide– irregular treatment, as required
Tweed Coast Holiday Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Small groups of all ages • Permanent residents 	Moderate, seasonally dependant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicide • Spot application of insecticides - eg ants or wasp nests • Broadscale application of selective herbicide • Spot applications of fungicide (garden beds) • Rodenticide– irregular treatment, as required
Road verges, road reserves, lanes, paths & easements accessible to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sections of community using footpaths 	Low in rural areas, moderate to high in urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicide • Directed application of non selective herbicide • Spot application of insecticide - eg wasp nest • Broadscale application of non-selective herbicides
Landfill or waste disposal sites (public areas only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community 	Low to moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot application of non selective herbicide • Directed application of non-selective herbicide • Broadscale application of selective insecticide (flies) • Rodenticide– irregular treatment, as required

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section describes how and when Tweed Shire Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places adjacent to public places

These notification requirements are based on Tweed Shire Council's assessment of:

- The type of pesticide used
- The level of use of public places where pesticides may be used
- The extent to which members of the public most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (eg young children, sick, elderly) are likely to use these areas
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in the areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (eg picnic areas, sporting fields)

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

- Signs
- Council website
- Notification in the Tweed Link
- Letters, fax or emails
- Personal contact through phones or doorknocking

How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Generally, notice of pesticide use will be provided in the ways described below. Specific arrangements for various categories of public open space are also listed.

1. For spot and directed applications of pesticide during regular maintenance, no prior notification will be provided. Notification is provided through this plan, and a statement on Council's website.

Spot application of pesticides is using a backpack or hand held applicator (eg spray can) delivering a low volume in a restricted area. Examples include control of grass around infrastructure such as signs, footpaths, rock walls and garden beds, and control of insect nests such as wasps. This may be part of a regular maintenance program, or unplanned reactive situations.

Directed application of pesticides is using a mechanical pump and hand held or automated nozzle delivering single sprays, generally in a linear pattern and targeting individual or small groups of weeds. Examples are spraying kerbs, gutters and median strips, or steep slopes and other difficult to access areas.

2. Council's website will provide prior notice of scheduled broadscale pesticide applications.

Broadscale application of pesticides is considered to involve boom sprays, aerial sprays and other methods delivering high volumes over a wide area

3. Specific notification arrangements are in place for different categories of public land as described below. These are based on factors such as the pesticide being applied, the method of application and the nature and frequency of use by members of the public. For example, drains and bushland have a much lower public use than managed parks. In managed parks, access to garden beds is much less than on mown grass areas.

4. Notification arrangements are in place for sensitive areas, as defined by the Pesticide Regulations (1995). Refer to 'Special arrangements for sensitive places' below.
5. Unplanned or emergency pesticide applications are occasionally required. Where this plan would normally propose prior notification arrangements, notification will be provided to sensitive places adjacent to the site, and to groups licensed to use the site such as sporting clubs on a sports field.
6. Council may occasionally be required to undertake pest control in unexpected places not covered by this plan. In these instances notification needs will be assessed according to the pesticide used, application method and level of use of that area. Examples can include:
 - Termite nests on public land can require treatment if private or public infrastructure is threatened. This is rare but may occur on any category of public land
 - Feral animal control (eg foxes and rabbits) is very rare but may be required in extreme cases.
7. Pesticide applications depend on suitable weather conditions. Where prior notification is provided, weather conditions can influence the proposed dates.

Parks and garden beds

For parks and garden beds, notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Bindii and broad leaf weeds (broadscale selective herbicide). Applications are scheduled and generally occur once per year. Notification procedures include:
 - Notification in Tweed Link and Council Website
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of 1 hour afterwards.
 - Letter of notification to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' that border the park.
- Directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in very low use areas that can't be mown (eg steep or inaccessible places).
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Control of insects in garden beds (spot application selective insecticide)
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of 1 hour afterwards.
- Ant control (broadscale application). This is a rare occurrence having been undertaken only once in the past several years
 - Notification in Tweed Link and on Council Website
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are high use areas favoured by young children. Council aims to minimise pesticide use around playgrounds by using manual weed control methods (brush cutting, hand pulling) where possible. The exception is sand based softfall areas, where spot application of a non selective herbicide is necessary to control weeds infesting the softfall. Council is phasing out sand softfall in favour of pine bark, which allows manual weed control.

Where required, Council will continue to undertake spot applications of pesticides as described below. As these are all very small doses in limited areas, no special notification procedures are proposed.

- Spot application of non selective herbicide in sand based playground softfall
- Bindii control through spot application of a selective herbicide. Minor infestations in small areas are treated as required.
- Ant control is occasionally undertaken through spot application of an insecticide. Infestations in small areas are treated as required.
- Insect nests (eg wasps) are treated through spot application of an insecticide.

Picnic tables and park shelters

Picnic tables and park shelters are high use areas associated with food consumption. Council aims to minimise pesticide use around picnic tables and shelters by using manual weed control methods (brush cutting, hand pulling) where possible.

Where required, Council will continue to undertake spot applications of pesticides as described below. As these are all very small doses in limited areas, no special notification procedures are proposed.

- Bindii control through spot application of a selective herbicide. Minor infestations in small areas are treated as required.
- Ant control is occasionally undertaken through spot application of an insecticide. Infestations in small areas are treated as required.
- Insect nests (eg wasps) are treated through spot application of an insecticide.

Sports fields

For sporting fields and ovals, notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Bindii and broad leaf weeds (broadscale selective herbicide). Applications are scheduled and generally occur 1 per year. Notification procedures will include:
 - Notification in Tweed Link and Council Website
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of 1 hour afterwards.
 - Letter to sports clubs licensed to use the field
 - Letter of notification to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' that border the park.
- Directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in very low use areas that can't be mown (eg steep or inaccessible places). This is unusual for sports fields and would only apply to specific places separate from the sports field area.

- Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application.
- Ant control (broadscale selective pesticides). This is a rare occurrence having been undertaken only once in the past several years
 - Notification in Tweed Link and Council Website
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application
 - Prior notification by letter to sports clubs licensed to use the field
 - Prior notification by letter to schools, hospitals and other 'sensitive places' that border the park.

Cricket wickets (turf)

Cricket wickets are areas of relatively intensive pesticide use. Main pesticide uses are selective herbicides to treat broadleaf weeds, and fungicides to treat fungal infection. The following notification procedures will apply:

- Wicket areas fenced off when not in use. Signs to be located around the wicket stating pesticides are frequently used and the wicket area is not to be accessed.
- Permanent statement on Council website

Swimming pools

Pesticide applications occur outside the swimming season when the facility is closed to the public and hence, no notification will be provided. This includes control of bindii (broadscale selective herbicide) and ants (broadscale pesticide). Chlorine is regularly used as a disinfectant and to treat swimming pool water and no notification will be provided other than through this plan.

Should unscheduled pesticide applications be required during the swimming season, the following notification procedures will apply:

- Spot applications of a selective herbicide for treatment of bindii, and spot applications of selective insecticide for treatment of ants
 - Temporary signs placed at main entrance to swimming pool

Coastal dunes, natural areas and bushland

Coastal dunes are managed as natural areas. Use is not encouraged other than beach access paths. Notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Bitou bush control through aerial application of non selective herbicide on selected areas of coastal dunes only. Council follows the Department of Environment and Conservation's 'Best Practice Guidelines for Aerial Spraying of Bitou Bush in NSW (2006)'. Notification methods include:
 - Prior notification in Tweed Link
 - General media release on the day of application
 - Prior signage on roadways in the area
 - Signs placed at access points prior to, and on the day of application.
 - Notification provided to schools in the area
 - Staff on the ground managing public access to the area

- Directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in very low use areas that can't be mown (eg steep or inaccessible places).
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application
- Pandanus trees can become infected with a planthopper insect. Infected trees are treated by stem injection using a systemic insecticide (Imadacloprid), with occasional restricted foliar application
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a reactive treatment applied when trees are infected
 - For foliar applications only, operator remains on site until the product dries
- Rodent control may be undertaken in areas where refuse accumulates and rodents become active. Application is through 'bait boxes' or inserted deep in rock walls or similar locations where they cannot be accessed
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is regular and ongoing practice.
 - Bait boxes are signposted

Rivers, foreshores and canal estates

Rivers and foreshores are areas of relatively low pesticide use. Notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Broadscale non selective insecticide in canal estates to control biting midges. This is a scheduled operation generally occurring twice each year (July and December)
 - Notification in Tweed Link and Council Website
- Directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in very low use areas that can't be mown (eg steep or inaccessible places).
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application
- Rodents (rats) in rock walls or similar places where refuse can accumulate. Application is through 'bait boxes' or inserted deep in rock walls where they cannot be accessed
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is regular and ongoing practice
 - Bait boxes are signposted

Drains and drainage systems and wetlands

Drains and drainage systems are generally low use areas, other than where they also function as a public park. Notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Directed application of non selective herbicide is undertaken to control weeds and grasses in concrete drains or areas where no other maintenance access is practical.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a regular, ongoing practice
 - Temporary signs will be displayed on the vehicle during application.
- Water weeds. Floating waterweeds are controlled when required in drainage systems and waterways. This is undertaken under strict licensing controls through the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), and in association with 'Far North Coast Weeds. Herbicides used include Bi-active Roundup and Reglone

- Notification in the Tweed Link
- Letters to all neighbouring properties
- Temporary signs displayed on the day of application.
- Mosquito larvae are controlled through broadscale application of a selective insecticide. Application is reactive to conditions that encourage mosquito development and frequency therefore varies.
 - No prior notice can given as the activity is weather and condition dependant
 - A notification list is maintained for chemically sensitive individuals. Those on the list are contacted by telephone prior to application.
- Rodents (rats) in rock walls or similar places where refuse can accumulate. Application is through 'bait boxes' or inserted deep in rock walls where they cannot be accessed.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is regular and ongoing practice
 - Bait boxes are signposted

Wetlands

Wetlands are low lying areas which are frequently inundated and can be a breeding area for mosquitoes. Notification procedures for the following pesticide uses will apply:

- Mosquito larvae are controlled through broadscale application of a selective insecticide. Application is reactive to conditions that encourage mosquito development and frequency therefore varies.
 - No prior notice can given as the activity is weather and condition dependant
 - A notification list is maintained for chemically sensitive individuals. Those on the list are contacted by telephone, generally the day before or on the day of application.

Cemeteries

For cemeteries, notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply

- Bindii and broad leaf weeds (broadscale selective herbicide). Applications are scheduled and generally occur 1 per year. Notification procedures will include:
 - Notification in Tweed Link and Council Website
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of 1 hour afterwards.
- Directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in low use areas that can't be mown (eg steep or inaccessible places).
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application

Tweed Coast Holiday Parks

The number of visitors to Council's Holiday Parks varies according to seasons. Notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Bindii and broad leaf weeds (broad scale selective herbicide). Applications are scheduled and generally occur 1 per year. Notification procedures will include:
 - Notification in Tweed Link and Council Website
 - Notification at Holiday Park Office
 - Letter to permanent residents giving prior notice, and follow up letter at the time pesticide is applied
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application and for a minimum of 1 hour afterwards.
- Directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in low use areas that can't be mown (eg steep or inaccessible places).
 - Temporary signs will be displayed at the time of application
- Ant control is occasionally undertaken through application of broad scale selective insecticides. This is a scheduled program generally occurring 1 per year. Notification procedures will include
 - Notification in Tweed Link and Council Website
 - Notification at Holiday Park Office
 - Letter to permanent residents giving prior notice, and follow up letter at the time pesticide is applied
 - Temporary signs will be displayed during application
- Rodents require control, particularly in places where refuse can accumulate. Application is through 'bait boxes' or inserted deep in rock walls where they cannot be accessed. These are generally placed in the dunal or bushland areas adjacent to parkland.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is regular and ongoing practice
 - Bait boxes are signposted
 - Permanent signs may be considered on boundary of park adjacent to regular treatment locations

Road verges, road reserves, laneways, pathways and easements accessible to the public

On roadsides and road reserves, notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- Directed application of a non selective herbicide is used to control weeds and grasses adjacent to footpaths, kerbs and gutters, guideposts, signposts, headwalls and other infrastructure. Notification procedures include:
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a regular, ongoing practice
 - Temporary signs will be displayed on the vehicle during applications.

- Directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in low use areas that can't be mown (eg steep or inaccessible places).
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is a regular, ongoing practice
 - Temporary signs will be displayed on the vehicle during application

Landfill and waste disposal sites

For landfill sites allowing public access, notification procedures for the following pesticides uses will apply:

- For control of weeds and grasses, both spot and directed applications of a non selective herbicide may be used.
 - Permanent sign at the entrance to the site
- For control of flying insects, a broadscale application of insecticide is occasionally undertaken. Council aims to minimise such insecticide use through management techniques such as separating, categorising and covering waste. Insecticide application is only undertaken when required, which is generally an emergent situation where no prior notification can be provided.
 - Permanent sign at the entrance to the site
 - Signs displayed during application
- Rodents require control, particularly in places where refuse can accumulate. Application is through 'bait boxes' or inserted deep in rock walls where they cannot be accessed. These are generally placed in the dunal or bushland areas adjacent to parkland.
 - No prior notification will be provided as this is regular and ongoing practice
 - Bait boxes are signposted

Special measures for sensitive places

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

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

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in public places within 200 meters of schools, childcare centres, hospitals and all other 'sensitive places' will occur in the following ways

- Prior notification will be provided for all scheduled broadscale applications (bindii and broad leaf weeds, ants) through letters and phone calls.
- If a broadscale pesticide application is required in an emergency situation, notification will be provided by phone calls or doorknocks at least 30 minutes prior to the event.

The following special arrangements are in place for properties or residents with special requirements, such as registered organic farms or residents with specific medical concerns relating to pesticide sensitivity. Council aims to minimise pesticide application adjacent to such locations, however cannot guarantee that no pesticide applications will occur. A register of such locations will be maintained and, where practical Council will:

- Provide prior notification for all scheduled broadscale applications (bindii and broad leaf weeds, ants) within 200m of such locations
- Minimise other herbicides applications adjacent to the boundary of such locations. This will be achieved by through careful applications of spot and directed methods of herbicide application.

Council also maintains a notification list for residents wishing to be advised of spraying for mosquito larvae nearby (refer to 'Wetlands' above). In this instance, telephone calls are made the day before, or on the day of application.

Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Tweed Shire uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, the same notification requirements apply

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on land that remains a public place, the same notification requirements apply.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- The full product name of the pesticide to be used.
- The purpose of the application, clearly setting out which 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 the area, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA¹ permit.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Tweed Shire will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- Making a copy of the plan available for viewing at:
 - Murwillumbah Civic Centre, Tumbulgum Rd, Murwillumbah
 - Tweed Heads Civic Centre, Brett St, Tweed Heads
- Placing a copy of the plan on the website
- Placing a notice in the Tweed Link, a weekly newsletter delivered to all residences in the shire
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 4 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. This will involve placing any proposed significant changes on public exhibition and calling for submissions on these proposed changes
- Amending the plan in the light of these submissions

7. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Tweed Shire to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should access Council's website at WWW.tweed.nsw.gov.au, or contact:

Open Space Officer, Recreation Services Unit

PO Box 816, Murwillumbah 2484

Phone: 02 6670 2616

Email: gburton@tweed.nsw.gov.au

¹ 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.