

**Doing work for councils or NSW public
authorities?**

New requirements for

PESTICIDES NOTIFICATION

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TALK OVERVIEW

- Some background
- Why do pesticides notification?
- New requirements for public authorities
- Practical ways of giving notice of pesticide use
- Questions

FROM 1 FEB 2007:

- Authorities must have a finalised pesticide notification plan
- Must give notice of pesticide use in public places according to their plan
- Penalties may apply if plan not followed
- Plan applies where authorities use contractors, but authority is legally liable



SOME BACKGROUND

- Required by amended *NSW Pesticides Regulation*
- Pesticide Implementation Committee developed notification proposals
- Several consultations since 2000
- Originally proposed strict requirements
- Plan-based approach for public authorities exhibited 2004

WHY DO NOTIFICATION?

- Based on people's right to know about pesticide use and minimise exposure if they wish
- Can avoid problems – eg school groups using footy fields; residue concerns on stock routes
- International best practice
- Already required by some permits/labels – eg 1080 & Endosulfan

A NOTIFICATION PLAN MUST SPECIFY (1)

- Categories of public places owned or controlled where pesticides are used, eg
 - Parks, gardens, playgrounds, picnic areas
 - Sporting ovals and facilities
 - Public land including road verges, pathways, drains, open easements, commons etc
 - NPWS and State Forest lands
- Regular user groups, eg
 - General public, sporting groups, drivers
- Estimated level of use by these groups



A NOTIFICATION PLAN MUST SPECIFY (2)

- How and when notice will be provided
 - Eg For broadscale insecticide application to ovals, user groups notified by email one week beforehand and a sign posted 24hours prior
- Any special measures for applications adjacent to sensitive places,
(schools, kindergarten, childcare, hospital, community health centre, nursing homes)
 - Eg Give targeted notice
- Public places and/or pesticide uses for which no notice will be provided

A NOTIFICATION PLAN MUST SPECIFY (3)

- Information to be provided with notice
(there's minimum requirements)
- How public is to be informed about the plan, ie where it is available, ads
- Contact person for the plan
- How plan will be reviewed



RECOMMEND A PLAN ALLOWS FOR

- Small uses – eg exempt domestic style pesticide uses from giving notice
- Emergency uses – eg biting/stinging pests, plague animals
- Pesticide use in public places by contractors and lessees
- Pesticide use in public places by community – eg along fence lines

COUNCILS NEED TO THINK ABOUT

- What notice should be provided?
 - Priority is where people are most likely to encounter pesticide use
- Need to cover all Council pesticide use in plan
 - Eg engineering and noxious weed sections too
- Overlaps with other authorities?
 - eg RTA on roads, RLPBs on travelling stock routes
- Practical issues?
 - eg vandalism of signs;
 - eg can a phone line be consistently answered?
- NESB community needs



PREPARING A PLAN - STEPS

- Prepare a draft plan
- Place draft on public exhibition 28 days
 - newspaper ad(s)
 - draft plan on council/authority website
- Finalise plan, taking account of submissions
- Gazette plan and do newspaper ad
- Notify DEC plan is finalised
- Final plan at main office & on website

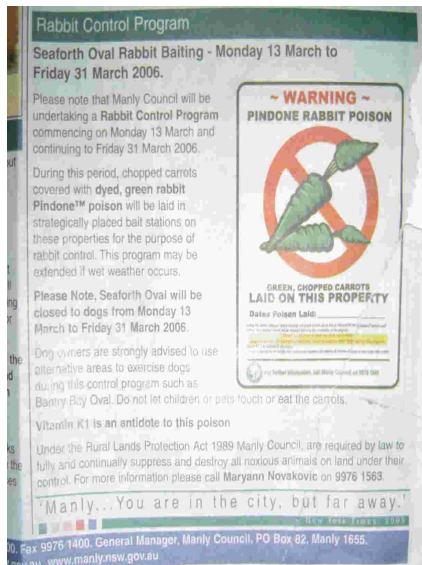
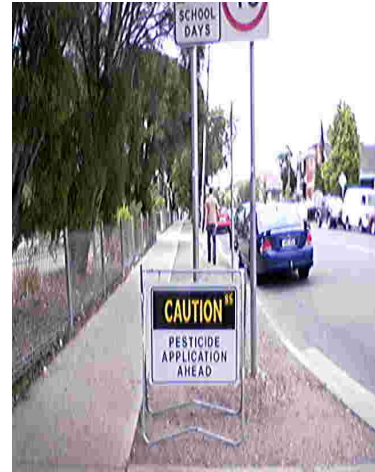
HOW WILL NOTICE BE PROVIDED?

- Each council and public authority will decide how they want to give notice
- Information to be provided with notice must include:
 - Product name - Purpose of use
 - Date(s) of use - Place of use
 - Contact details - Any re-entry restrictions



NOTICE CAN BE GIVEN BY

- Signs, eg
- (this one needs updating)



- Newspaper ads, eg

- Website information
- Letterbox drop
- Individual notice (phone/fax/email/personal)
- Phone line (live or recorded)
- Info sheet (eg with rate notices)
- Community meeting
- Respond to information requests
- Notification register



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Address http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/pesticide_notification.htm Go Links

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- Pesticides home
- Pesticides Act
- Pesticides Implementation Committee reports
- Record keeping
- Training
- Notification of pesticide use
- Pest management technicians
- Fact sheets
- Pesticide control orders
- Links

Notification of pesticide use

From February 2007 it will be compulsory for some pesticide users to give notice that they are planning to use pesticides.

Notification is based on the principle that people have a basic right to know when pesticides are used. Notifying people about pesticide use means that they can make informed decisions about their contact with pesticides. The aim of notification is to let people choose to reduce their exposure to pesticide use if they wish.

Three key groups will need to give notice of pesticide use:

- **Public authorities**, including State government departments, local councils and county councils. They will need to develop notification plans that describe how they will provide the public with notice about their pesticide use in outdoor public places such as parks and ovals, and in public places near sensitive sites such as schools and hospitals.
- **People who organise a professional pesticide treatment** in the common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes, including property and strata managers and managing agents. They will need to give residents prior notice of pesticide use in these areas.
- **Pest management technicians** who apply pesticides in the common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes. They will need to give residents notice just before and while they are using pesticides in these areas.

These groups will have one year from February 2006 to understand and plan for their new responsibilities. The new laws are contained in Part 4B of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 and will be enforced from February 2007.

If you would like to know more, you can access (as pdf files, requires [Acrobat Reader](#)):

Draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan for NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan for NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

The New South Wales *Pesticides Regulation 1995* requires public authorities such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to prepare a Pesticide Use Notification Plan that outlines how they will notify the community of pesticide applications made to public places.

The NPWS has prepared a draft plan that is available for public comment. The Plan describes:

- what public places are covered by the plan
- who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use
- how and when NPWS will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (ie what notification arrangements will be used), and
- how the community can access this plan and get more information.

The plan covers all lands acquired or reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Comments on the draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan

To comment on the draft plan firstly view it online (see link below) or obtain a printed copy from any of the NPWS regional offices - call 131 555 to find the nearest office.

You can then make a submission in one of the following ways:

1. Fill in an online form

SOME KEY POINTS

- Regulation only applies to outdoor public places
- It's up to authorities to decide what pesticide notification they will provide
- Does not need to be onerous
- Plan must be finalised by 1 Feb 2007
- Contractors to councils & NSW authorities should ask what is expected of them

FURTHER DETAILS

- Call Environment Line on 131555
- www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pesticides

