

**BEGA VALLEY SHIRE
COUNCIL**

**Pesticide use notification
plan**

January 2007



Bega Valley Shire Council

Zingel Place

PO Box 492

Bega NSW 2550

Phone (02) 6499 2222

Fax (02) 6499 2200

council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Pesticide use notification plan

DRAFT

9 January 2007

Contents

Area of operation	1
Plan period.....	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Public places covered by this plan	1
3. Notification arrangements	4
<hr/>	
Outdoor recreation areas	4
Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public	5
Council buildings.....	5
Caravan/holiday parks	6
Cemeteries.....	6
Wharves and jetties.....	6
Animal pound facilities.....	6
Swimming pool grounds	6
Other areas	7
Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places	7
4. Emergency pesticide applications	7
5. Special measures for sensitive places	7
6. Information provided	8
7. How the community will be informed of this plan	8
8. Future reviews of the plan	9
9. Contact details	9
<hr/>	

Area of operation

Local government area of Bega Valley Shire

Plan period

Start date: 1 February 2007

End date: 30 June 2012

1. Introduction

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation).

The aim of the plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to public places that are owned or controlled by *Bega Valley Shire Council* (Council). This plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they wish. Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

Pesticides are defined in the Regulation and include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, fumigants, baits, lures, bactericides, rodenticides and repellents.

2. Public places covered by this plan

Bega Valley 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 *Bega Valley Shire*:

- parks and public gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields and ovals
- easements accessible to the public
- public land owned or controlled by Bega Valley Shire Council including:
 - road verges and reserves
 - laneways and pathways
 - bridges
 - road, utility or other easements accessible to the public
 - drains
 - wharves and jetties
 - pound facilities
 - other sporting facilities, including ovals, sports grounds, swimming pools
 - camping grounds
 - commons
 - cemeteries
 - Crown Lands

A public place also includes any other outdoor property that is leased out but to which the public is entitled access.

Although not required by the Regulation, this notification plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following *Bega Valley Shire Council* buildings or throughout the listed facilities:

- Bega Valley Shire Council offices in Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula
- Bega Valley Shire Council libraries in Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula
- All Bega Valley Shire Council Works Depots throughout the Shire
- Other storage areas such as gravel pits and stockpile areas
- Bega Valley Shire Council public halls
- Bega Valley Shire Council childcare facilities
- Bega Valley Shire Council community services buildings

Bega Valley Shire Councils 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. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

The main user groups of these public places and types of pesticides used are summarised in the following table.

Table1: Regular user groups, levels of use and types of pesticide used in public places controlled by Bega Valley Shire Council

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Public parks and gardens	Children and young families, elderly people, general recreational users	High	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Picnic areas	Children and young families, elderly people, general recreational users	High	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Playgrounds	Children and young families	High	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Sporting fields and ovals	Sporting clubs and associations, school sports groups, general recreational users, children and schoolchildren General recreational users	High	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Road verges, bridges and reserves	General recreational users	Medium	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Laneways and pathways	General recreational users	Medium	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. road, rail, water, sewer, electricity)	General recreational users	Low	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Drains	General recreational users	Low	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Camping grounds	Campers and general users	High	Spot-spraying selective and non-selective herbicides
Commons	General recreational users	Medium	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Other outdoor public places	General recreational users		Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Wharves and jetties	General public	Low	Termiticides
Animal pound facilities	General public	Low	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Cemeteries	General public	Medium	Spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Swimming pool buildings and grounds	Swimming clubs and associations, school groups, general recreational users, children and schoolchildren	Medium	Spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Crown land	General recreational users	Medium	Broadscale non-selective and selective herbicides; spot-spraying non-selective and selective herbicides
Interiors of public buildings	Community groups, students, general public	Medium	Spot-spraying of selective pesticides

3. Notification arrangements

Wherever a pesticide is applied by Bega Valley Shire Council staff or a contractor acting on its behalf to a public place as identified above notification will be made according to the notification process as listed below.

These notification requirements are based on *Bega Valley Shire Councils* assessment of:

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides may be used
- The extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) and are likely to use these areas regularly
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (such as picnic areas where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational areas that result in some contact with the ground)
- Type of pesticide used

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

- signs
- information on Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places)
- letters or emails to those people who have particular sensitivities to pesticides and who have registered with Council
- media releases
- phone contact

Council will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide use in particular places as described in this section of the plan.

Council uses some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan (or general information on Council's website). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans, spot weed control with a non-selective herbicide using a wand, backpack or hand-held spray bottle.

Outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA):

- public parks and gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities

In these public places, signs advising the general community will be placed near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- spray termiticides and ant control
- bait termiticides
- bait bird control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- bait rabbit control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- bait rodenticide (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places' under subsection '6' Special measures for sensitive places) the occupiers will be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following categories of public place owned or controlled by Council:

- laneways and pathways
- road shoulders, verges, road reserves, bicycle paths and footpaths
- road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public
- drains

In these public places, information on the forward program for broadscale herbicide control will be placed on the Council's website at least every 3 months and will also be included in Council's regular box advertisements in local newspapers at least every 3 months.

Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to Council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their properties.

Council buildings

For pesticide use in Council chambers, Council owned libraries, community halls and centres and childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- spot use of insecticide
- bait rodenticides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control

Information for the general community will be posted on Council's website every 3 months about the above applications and on the following pesticide uses in the above Council buildings:

- bait termiticides
- bait ant control
- bait bird control

In addition, 5 days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in Council childcare facilities will be given to operators of the facilities.

Caravan/holiday parks

The notification arrangements described below will apply to caravan or holiday parks owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA).

Signs advising visitors and the general community will be placed near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot-spraying using a selective or non-selective pesticide
- Broadscale spraying using a selective or non-selective pesticide

Cemeteries

Broadscale and spot-spraying of selective and non-selective herbicides will be carried out as appropriate.

Wharves and jetties

Signs advising visitors and the general community will be placed near the application area at least 24 hours prior to application and remain at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot-spraying using a selective termicide

Animal pound facilities

Signs advising the general community will be placed near the application area during the spray program and remain for at least six hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- Spot-spraying using a selective or non-selective herbicide
- Broadscale spraying using a selective or non-selective herbicide

Swimming pool grounds

Information on the forward program for broadscale herbicide control will be placed on the Council's website at least every 3 months and be included in Council's regular box advertisements in local newspapers at least every 3 months.

Other areas

Aerial boom spraying

From time to time, Council may carry out an aerial spraying program to control heavy and inaccessible infestations of noxious weeds on public reserves. Where these programs are undertaken, the following notification process will be undertaken:

- All residents adjoining the proposed spray area will be notified by mail at least 7 days prior to the activity
- Signs will be prominently displayed at the helicopter take off and landing site during the activity
- Pesticide details will be displayed at the site during the activity

All public places to be aerially sprayed and any within 100 metres of the site will be closed at least one hour prior to the program taking place and will remain closed at least one hour after the completion of the program.

Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

4. Emergency pesticide applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), Council will not be required to give notice. Council will provide information via its Council infoline (6499 2222) or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

5. 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
- any other place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Wherever Council staff apply a pesticide or contractors acting for Council to any public place (as listed above) adjacent to a sensitive place, notice will be provided by:

- for non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places next to sensitive places, Council will provide concurrent notice shortly before use to the occupier by phone, doorknock or letterbox drop, depending upon what is practicable.
- if a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Council will organise a doorknock in the sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes before, so that people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous pest infestation.
- displaying pesticide and phone contact details on the spray vehicle during the application.
- responding to reasonable requests for information made to the operator or to Council.

6. Information provided

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notices of pesticide use will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used
- 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
- the place where the pesticide is to be used
- contact telephone number and email address of the Council officer who can be contacted to discuss the notice
- any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit

As already noted, Council's website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places with a link to this Plan. The relevant website will be publicised by regular inclusions in Council's regular fortnightly newspaper advertisement in local newspapers.

7. How the community will be informed of this plan

Council will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the Plan and its contents available for public viewing free of charge in Council's libraries and main office in Zingel Place, Bega during office hours
- placing a notice in the *Bega District News*; *Merimbula News Weekly* and *Eden Magnet*.
- placing a copy of the Plan on Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au

8. Future reviews of the plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every *five* 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
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

9. Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact *Bega Valley Shire Council* to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

The General Manager, PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550

Phone (02) 6499 2222 | Fax (02) 6499 2200 | Email council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

or access the website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au